FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-087
Thursday
5 May 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-087

CONTENTS

5 May 1994

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CIS Countries, U.S. Conclude Disarmament Accords *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
CIS To Submit Proposals for Partnership Program *[ITAR-TASS]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Leaders Hold Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh in Bishkek 2
  Akayev Addresses Meeting *[KYRGYZKABAR]* 2
  Participants Discuss Cease-Fire *[INTERFAX]* 2
  Meeting Shows 'Positive Signs' *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
  'Latent Tension' Mars Bishkek Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
  CIS Deputies Discuss Karabakh Problem *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Baltic Presidents Hold Talks in Latvia 3
  Hope for Prompt Russian Withdrawal *[Riga Radio]* 3
  Brazauskas Notes Accord on Russian Policy *[ELTA]* 3
  Meri, Ulmanis Pleased With Polish Pact *[BNS]* 4
Central Asian Presidents Discuss CIS, Regional Issues *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 4
Shumeyko Urges Creation of CIS Peacekeeping Force *[Russian TV]* 4
Armenian Premier Calls For CIS Common Currency *[PRAVDA 4 May]* 5
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 May 5

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia, U.S. Come To Rescue in Mideast Peace Signing *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev Upbeat on PLO-Israeli Peace Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
  Further Kozyrev Remarks *[TRUD 5 May]* 7
  Kozyrev Interviewed on Settlement *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Churkin Urges Pressure on Bosnian Warring Factions *[INTERFAX]* 8
Kozyrev, Christopher Urge Geneva Meeting on Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  More on Future Bosnia Talks *[INTERFAX]* 9
  Meeting Expected in 'Next Few Days' *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Deputy Minister Views Bosnian Conflict *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 9
Russian, U.S. Defense Expert Groups Meet in Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 10
  Experts Discuss Strategic Stability *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
U.S.-Russian Exercise Unlikely To Go Ahead *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 11
Editorial: Clinton Fails To Clarify Foreign Policy *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 11
Shokhin Sums Up Results of Washington Talks *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 12
Proposal for Third Hague Peace Conference Viewed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 13
Republics, Regions Threatened With Gas Cutoff *[INTERFAX]* 14
Yeltsin Claims 'No Military Aims' in Estonia *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
180 Strategic Missiles Removed From Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Special Envoy on Talks With Ukraine *[ROSSIYA 10 May]* 15
Foreign Ministry Commission Discusses Tajikistan *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Adamishin on Eve of Tajik Leader's Visit *[Moscow TV]* 15
Visit by High-Level Tajik Delegation Previewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Kozyrev Welcomes 'Epoch-Making' Election in RSA *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
  Foreign Ministry Seeks Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Greek Foreign Minister Postpones Visit to Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 17
Deputy Defense Minister Meets ROK Counterpart *[INTERFAX]* 17
Moscow To Help Upgrade Indian Fighters *[Radio Rossii]* 17

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Businessmen To Sign Accord Agreement in Kremlin *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Agrarians To Decide on Accord Treaty Signing *[INTERFAX]* 18
Accord Pact Proves 'Stabilizing Factor' *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 18

- Farmers' Trade Union Not To Sign Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 19
- Accord Treaty Signing To Continue 5 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
- Value of Social Accord Treaty Assessed *[TRUD 4 May]* 20
- Yeltsin Forms National Committee; Headed by Yarov *[Moscow Radio]* 21
- Yeltsin Issues Labor Protection Edict *[Radio Rossii]* 21
- Yeltsin Appoints Social Security Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
- Yeltsin Aide Ilyushin Discusses Presidential Council *[Russian TV]* 21
- Khasbulatov Does Not Plan Return to Politics *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
- Election Fraud Claims, Implications Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 22
- Defendant in 1991 Coup Attempt Rejects Amnesty *[INTERFAX]* 24
- Suspected Corrupt Officials Detained *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
- Authorities' Ambivalence Toward Press Criticized *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 1-8 May]* 25

Economic Issues

- Fourth Block of Kolskiy Nuclear Power Station Closed *[INTERFAX]* 26
- Experts Propose New Program To Settle Debt Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
- Defense Industry Workers Seek Soskovets Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 26
- Causes of Inflation Analyzed, Ways Out Pondered *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 26

Military & Space Issues

- SS-25 To Be 'Missile of the 21st Century' *[Russian TV]* 27
- New Orbiting Station Said To Be 'State Secret' *[Moscow TV]* 28
- Atomic Weapons Museum Shows 'Original' Hydrogen Bomb *[Russian TV]* 28
- Air Force Command, Staff Exercises Featured *[Russian TV]* 28
- Air Force Commander Deynekin Interviewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 28
- Border Guard Training Center Attacked *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
- CIS Military Official Seriously Injured *[ITAR-TASS]* 30

Federal Assembly

- Committee Chief on Duma's Present, Future Role *[ROSSIYA 4-10 May]* 30
- Federation Council Rejects Government Farm Program *[TRUD 5 May]* 31

Regional Affairs

- No. Ossetian Leader on Ingushetia Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
- Khasbulatov Meets With Chechnya's Villagers *[INTERFAX]* 31
- Illegal Arms Seizures Increase Sharply in Tula *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 32
- Krasnodar Imposes 'Severe' Immigration Restrictions *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 32
- Kaliningrad Duma Inaugurates Work, Elects Speaker *[KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA 28 Apr]* 32
- Japanese, Khabarovsk Military Officials Meet *[Khabarovsk Radio]* 33
- Stepashin Attends Talks on Dagestan-Azerbaijan Border *[Radio Rossii]* 33
- Volost Revived as Local Administrative Unit *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 33
- Novosibirsk Defense Plants Petition Yeltsin *[VECHERNYY NOVOSIBIRSK 29 Apr]* 34
- Russia's Choice Organizes in Tatarstan *[IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA 30 Apr]* 34
- Shaymiyev Interviewed on Return From Moscow *[RESPUBLIKA TATARSTANA 30 Apr]* 35

UKRAINE

International Affairs

- Defense Ministry Says Russia Plans To Hijack Missile Plane *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
- Black Sea Fleet Official Denies Aircraft Transfer Claim *[INTERFAX]* 37
- Defense Ministry Warns Against Materiel Transfer to Russia *[Kiev International]* 37
- French Minister Offers Assistance in Closing Chernobyl *[UNIAR]* 37
  - Kravchuk Thanks France for Help *[INTERFAX]* 37
  - Delegation Says $3 Billion Needed *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
  - Environment Minister on Closing *[Kiev International]* 38
  - Ministry Urges Shutdown *[INTERFAX]* 38
- Japan To Grant $16 Million for Nuclear Disarmament *[UNIAN]* 39
- Deputy Prime Minister Meets U.S. Security Council Official *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
- Intergovernmental Economic Talks With U.S. Under Way *[INTERFAX]* 39
- Kravchuk Welcomes Economic Relations With U.S. *[Kiev International]* 39
- Kravchuk on Hopes for Parliamentary Approval of Accords *[INTERFAX]* 40
- Foreign Ministry Praises Israeli-Palestinian Accord *[Kiev International]* 40

National Affairs

Meshkov Declares 6 May Crimean Constitution Day *[UNIAN]* 40
Acting PM Discusses Economic Reform With Crimea *[UNIAN]* 40
Former Prime Minister Lanovyy Nominated for President *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 28 Apr]* 40
Presidential Candidate Pinzenik Drops Out of Race *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Economy, Constitution, High on New Supreme Council's Agenda *[UNIAN]* 42
Commentary Views 'Pros, Cons' of Current Monetary Policy *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 30 Apr]* 42

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Kebich Accused of Usurping Radio, TV in Campaign *[INTERFAX]* 43
Hryb Comments on Legislative Economic Council Work *[Minsk Radio]* 43
Further Production Decline Reported in Jan-Mar 94 *[BELAPAN]* 44
Chavusy Tank Base Closed, Cleared Out Ahead of Schedule *[BELAPAN]* 44
Representatives of UN Drugs Control Board To Visit *[BELAPAN]* 44

Moldova

Chisinau Restores Ties With Tiraspol *[INTERFAX]* 44
New Party of Communists Registered *[ITAR-TASS]* 44

CENTRAL ASIA

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Declares Russia Major Partner, Ally *[INTERFAX]* 45
    Attends Kyrgyz Constitutional Court Meeting *[Bishkek Radio]* 45
Akayev Receives Japenese Fund Representatives *[Bishkek Radio]* 45
Kyrgyzstan Will Celebrate Constitution Anniversary 5 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

Tajikistan

Government Delegation Arrives in Khorog on Visit *[Dushanbe Radio]* 45
Russian Forces Foil Tajik Attack on Afghan Border *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

CAUCASUS

Armenia

U.S. Energy Representatives Discuss Cooperation in Yerevan *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Paper Interviews Russian, U.S., Iranian Envoys *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 46
Prosecutor's Office Investigates High-Level Corruption *[SNARK]* 47

Azerbaijan

Clinton's Letter to Aliyev on Aid Assessed *[Baku TV]* 47
Reportage on Aliyev Visit to Belgium 47
    Meets With Dehaene *[TURAN]* 47
    To Meet With NATO's Woerner *[TURAN]* 47
    Signs Partnership for Peace *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Azerbaijani Attack, Border Shelling Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 48
Heavy Fighting Reported in Terterskiy *[TURAN]* 48
Karabakh Forces Said To Have Gained Heights In Mardakert *[INTERFAX]* 49
Aliyev Envoy Said To Seek 'Truce' With Elchibey *[TURAN]* 49
Guliyev Unable To Attend Bishkek Talks Due Fighting *[Moscow TV]* 49
Captured Afghan Mojahed Says Others Fighting in Army *[INTERFAX]* 49
Azerbaijan's Stand on Partnership for Peace Viewed *[Baku TV]* 50

Georgia

Abkhazian Government 'in Exile' Refuses To Move to Zugdidi *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 50
Ioseliani Discusses Geneva Talks, Russian Ties *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 28 Apr]* 50
Situation in Abkhazia's Gali District Remains Tense *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
South Ossetia Announces New Leader Appointments *[IBERIA]* 52
New Deputy Interior Minister Appointed *[Tbilisi TV]* 52
Georgians Joining Russian Border Troops on Turkish Border *[IBERIA]* 52

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Laar Confers With French Leaders in Paris *[ETA]* 53
Mitterrand Advises Sticking to Course With Russia *[Tallinn Radio]* 53
Round of Talks With Russia Begins in Tallinn *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Border Guard, Russian Attache Agree on Kurdish Issue *[BNS]* 53
Council of Europe Delegation Visits Parliament *[BNS]* 53
Environment Minister Concludes Fishing Pacts With Russia *[ETA]* 54
Interior Ministry Official Denies Reports of Coup Plan *[ETA]* 54
Parliament Ratifies Free Trade Agreement With Norway *[ETA]* 54
Central Bank Presents Report on Inflation *[BNS]* 54
Liberal Democratic Official Denounces 'Baltic Fascism' *[ETA]* 55

Latvia

Government Takes Over New Skrunda Radar Facility *[INTERFAX]* 55
Cabinet Adopts Law on Port Use, Management, Security *[BNS]* 55
Guard Commander Deems Borders 'Practically Unguarded' *[BNS]* 55
Saeima Speaker Speech Marks Declaration Anniversary *[BNS]* 56
Employment Service Reports Jobless Rate of 6.6 Percent *[BNS]* 56

Lithuania

President Welcomes Israel-PLO Agreement *[ELTA]* 56
Security Head Says KGB Files Must Be Returned *[BNS]* 56
Deputies Agree VAT Necessary *[BNS]* 57
Prime Minister Discusses Government Policy *[TIESA 21 Apr]* 57
IMF Representative Interviewed on Loans *[TIESA 20 Apr]* 59

CIS Countries, U.S. Conclude Disarmament Accords

LD0405220294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1639 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 4 May—Important accords on disarmament have acquired a mechanism and means needed for their implementation. This is the result of the work of experts from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. The statement for the press received at the ITAR-TASS correspondent's office in Geneva notes that today representatives of the five countries concluded a number of multilateral documents dealing with the treaty on the elimination of medium- and short-range missiles. This is the result of the 15th session of the special control commission held in Geneva in January and February as well as subsequent diplomatic exchanges.

CIS To Submit Proposals for Partnership Program

LD0405194694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS—The Headquarters for Coordination of Military Cooperation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) intends to propose the NATO to make additions to the "Partnership for Peace" program. Specifically, these additions will concern the interaction between the NATO and the Commonwealth at the level of two defense alliances. Preliminarily this proposal will be considered by the Council of Defense Ministers of the Commonwealth, Lieutenant-General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the Council of Defense Ministers of the Commonwealth who returned from Brussels on Tuesday, told ITAR-TASS today.

Representatives of the leadership of the Headquarters for Coordination of Military Cooperation of the Commonwealth headed by Colonel-General Viktor Samsonov, took part in a meeting of the NATO military committee which discussed problems of Bosnia and the "Partnership for Peace" program.

In the course of the meetings, Leonid Ivashov noted, the Russian delegation displayed interest in the development of any forms of cooperation and interaction. At the same time the Russian delegation expressed concern about the unclear character of some directions of the "Partnership for Peace" program which, the general believes, do not give full guarantees of security to the Commonwealth states. According to Leonid Ivashov, the program for cooperation proposed by the NATO resolves only a small part of the security problems which are facing Russia, specifically its peacemaking mission in hot spots in other former Soviet republics.

"Taking into account the processes taking place on the territory of the former Soviet Union, Russia must rely on the Commonwealth," Leonid Ivashov stressed.

Touching on the situation in Bosnia the lieutenant-general noted that the majority of the participants in the discussion in the NATO came to the conclusion that the forcible methods would not be able to bring positive results as the air bombing of the Serbian positions was taken as backing of one of the warring sides.

On the whole Leonid Ivashov underlined the usefulness of the participation of the delegation of the Headquarters for Coordination of Military Cooperation of the Commonwealth states in the meeting of the NATO military committee.

Leaders Hold Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh in Bishkek

Akayev Addresses Meeting

LD0405165194 Bishkek KYRGYZKABAR in Russian 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Bishkek, 4 May—A meeting on settling the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh opened today at Kyrgyzstan's government house. President Askar Akayev addressed those present:

The Karabakh conflict is a complex knot of problems that has centuries old traditions. Generations of people of the two fraternal republics should not be victims of historic mistakes and contradictions. It is our belief that these problems should be solved today on the basis of present day realities, on the principles of tolerance and mutual concessions. The fact that the Karabakh problem is being discussed within the framework of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, which is led by the Vladimir Shumeyko, allows us to believe that Legislative Branches of power will find a safe mechanism for putting out the flame of the fraternal war. There are no winners in this war. Your efforts aimed at peaceful settlment of the Karabakh conflict will be appreciated by future generations and by history. I wish you success in your job, peace and well being to your people.

[Signed] President Askar Akayev.

Participants Discuss Cease-Fire

LD0405163194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Today participants in a meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh opened in Bishkek on May 4 at the initiative of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly started to discuss a protocol on a cease-fire in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri conflict. As Interfax learned from well-informed sources in the Kyrgyz capital, the cease-fire is planned for May 9, 1994.

The meeting is attended by Chairman of the Armenian parliament Babken Ararktsyan, Deputy Chairman of the Azeri Milli-Mejlis Afiyaddin Dzhalilov, Acting Chairman of the Karabakh parliament Karen Baburyan, and mediators Chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and the Russian Council of Federation Vladimir Shumeyko and Chairman of the Kyrgyz parliament Medetkan Sherimkulov.

As Sherimkulov told Interfax during a break that the talks were difficult and their results unknown. At the same time, he expressed hope that on Wednesday the sides will agree to sign the protocol.

As a well-informed source in the Azeri presidential administration told Interfax, Chairman of the Azeri parliament Rasul Guliyev failed to arrive in Bishkek due to the aggravation of the situation in the zone of the Karabakh conflict. The source said that Guliyev has been in the front line zone in the past few days.

Meeting Shows 'Positive Signs'

LD0405135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek 4 May TASS—A working meeting of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly on Nagorno-Karabakh held in the Kyrgyz capital on Wednesday showed positive signs. After three hours of talks held behind closed doors Deputy Chairman [as received] of the Azeri Parliament Afiyaddin Dzhalilov answered journalists' questions.

"It is difficult to say yet whether any document will be signed during the meeting. A discussion about the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the Azeri territory, return of refugees and the establishment of a reliable ceasefire is underway," Dzhalilov said.

Chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko said in a television interview that for the success of the talks Karabakh should be considered a party involved in the conflict. Asked about the attitude of the Azeri delegation to this statement, Dzhalilov pointed out that "we proceed from the assumption that the conflict has turned into a war and Azerbaijan and Armenia should settle it by peaceful means. What is at issue today is that the problem should not be "buried in sand" since the war is going on on the territory of Azerbaijan. A million refugees are living in tents. Therefore, common sense should prevail," Dzhalilov said.

'Latent Tension' Mars Bishkek Meeting

LD0405150194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1346 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by KYRGYZKABAR correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek, 4 May—The talks on ways to settle the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh began today in Kyrgyzstan's capital in the atmosphere of latent tension. The sides were ready to take issue on any minor point. Since Nagorno-Karabakh representatives were absent from the reception staged by President Askar Akayev before the start of the talks and its delegation did not get an opportunity to state its position at the morning session, one can understand the harsh assessment of the conference from Karen Baburyan, acting chairman of Armenia's Supreme Soviet, who said: "It could not be worse. If they make some decisions without Nagorno-Karabakh, all right, let them. But who then is to return the conquered territories?"

The first to speak was deputy chairman of Azerbaijan's Supreme Soviet Afiyaddin Dzhalilov, who categorically demanded an immediate cease-fire and the withdrawal of troops from the occupied territories.

The Armenian side reacted negatively to the fact that the chairman of Azerbaijan's Supreme Soviet did not turn up and that the meeting was attended by his deputy instead. [Armenian] Parliament Speaker Babken Ararktsyan stated in no uncertain terms that this strongly undermined the authority of the present meeting. He said it is hard to understand why Azerbaijan has not accepted measures proposed by Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh to settle the conflict, even though it is to receive territories in return. He reiterated the words of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, contained in his message to the participants in the talks, to the effect that the sides' frequently repeated statements about peace do not bring peace and quiet to the area.

CIS Deputies Discuss Karabakh Problem

LD0505090194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0727 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek May 5 TASS—Parliamentarians from Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh worked late into the night on Wednesday [4 May] and resumed discussions early on Thursday morning to try and find a way around the stumbling block which, according to the leader of the Armenian parliamentary commission on Nagorno-Karabakh, Seiran Bagdasaryan, is formed by Azerbaijan's state policy rejecting the introduction of CIS peace-keepers and CSCE observers to the Karabakh region.

According to Bagdasaryan, Azerbaijan has not made up its mind concerning the main question about the disengagement of the warring forces. Only after the guns become silent, will it be possible to begin peace talks, bring back the refugees and exchange hostages. Azerbaijan is proposing a simple lull, but the situation is calling for the beginning of a lengthy process which can guarantee the non-resumption of combat activities, Bagdasaryan said.

Different variants of stationing peace-keeping forces have been proposed. In April the Azeri leader, President Heydar Aliyev refused to sign the resolution on the sending of CIS troops to the region approved by the CIS summit. At present the Azeri delegation is dragging feet in order not to sign a simple protocol, containing a call on the heads of state and parliaments to from CIS peace-keeping contingent and begin a peaceful dialogue. This is a practical attempt at hiding behind verbiage about Azerbaijan's sovereignty in an effort to avoid any solution to the Karabakh problem, Bagdasaryan said.

The Azers are again trying to use these talks in order to play for time, while they are preparing their troops for new offensive, the Armenian parliamentarian said. Political realities are now such that Azerbaijan will have to recognise Nagorno-Karabakh's independence. Policy can no longer be build on quantitative indices of the sort that there are seven million of Azers and only 150 thousand of Karabakh people. World experience shows that this is by far not the most decisive factor, Bagdasaryan said. He stressed his confidence that Azerbaijan would have to recognise Karabakh's independence earlier or later.

As concerns talks as a whole, Bagdasaryan said they are necessary because they help CIS parliamentarians to know each other better, clarify their respective positions and make steps towards peace. Meetings of this kind also help strengthen the CIS inter-parliamentary assembly, which is a promising process," the Armenian envoy said.

Baltic Presidents Hold Talks in Latvia

Hope for Prompt Russian Withdrawal

LD0405131294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] At President Guntis Ulmanis' initiative, Estonian State President Lennart Meri and Lithuanian State President Algirdas Brazauskas came to his residence in Jurmala yesterday. The meeting was private. The presidents discussed the internal situation in the Baltic states and foreign policy issues. No documents were adopted. All three presidents agreed not to make a statement for the press. However, respecting the specific character of reporters' work, the president of our country [Latvia] decided to hold a small news conference.

Guntis Ulmanis said at Maikapara House today that the agreements signed between Latvia and Russia were discussed during the presidents' meeting. All the presidents of the Baltic states expressed the hope that the agreements concluded between Latvia and Russia would speed up the Russian Army withdrawal from Estonia. Ulmanis noted that a regular round of talks was held in Tallinn today.

The presidents of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia also discussed cooperation with those countries which expressed support for the agreements signed between Latvia and Russia. The agreements concluded have an important role in the stabilization of the Baltic states. The presidents expressed hope that Western countries which supported the process of drafting the agreements will continue to watch how they are implemented.

This evening at the president's residence, Guntis Ulmanis will meet ambassadors accredited in Latvia.

Brazauskas Notes Accord on Russian Policy

WS0505092494 Vilnius ELTA in English 1715 GMT 4 May 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 492]

[Text] Vilnius, May 4, ELTA—The opinions about the policy of the Baltic countries towards Russia were not different, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said during the interview for the Lithuanian television and ELTA.

The relations of the Baltic countries with Russia alongside with other issues were discussed at the meeting of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian presidents on May 3 in Jurmala.

The meeting was arranged on the initiative of Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis.

Ulmanis informed the presidents about agreements between Latvia and Russia signed last week, the agreement on withdrawal of Russian troops among them.

It was emphasized during the meeting that efforts should be put forth to guarantee the carrying out of the agreements. The life showed that they not always were carried out by the Russian side.

Brazauskas said that they had discussed the work that had been done in the field of foreign policy after the meeting in Palanga on March 25.

Brazauskas informed the presidents about his visit to Strasbourg, the visit of Polish president to Lithuania and the Lithuanian-Polish treaty, which received positive evaluation from other Baltic presidents.

Brazauskas noted that the negotiations between Lithuania and Russia would soon be resumed. Russian experts have already been invited to Lithuania in order to promote the agreements in the fields of military transit.

Brazauskas expressed a hope that the agreements with Russia would be reached on the terms acceptable for both sides.

He also said that he was ready to discuss the arising problems directly with President Yeltsin. However, this meeting has not still be foreseen.

Meri, Ulmanis Pleased With Polish Pact

WS0505092094 Tallinn BNS in English 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 04, BNS—Estonian President Lennart Meri and Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis are positive about the friendship and cooperation treaty that was signed by their Lithuanian and Polish counterparts in Vilnius last week, the Lithuanian president's spokesman, Nerijus Maliukevicius, said.

The presidents of the three Baltic states met in Latvia Tuesday [3 May] for a discussion of troop withdrawal and Baltic cooperation issues. Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas returned to Vilnius Wednesday. The summit was strictly confidential.

In an interview with Lithuanian TV, Brazauskas said Lithuanian and Latvian views on relations with Russia are quite close, while Estonia's position is different, but he declined to disclose its essence.

Central Asian Presidents Discuss CIS, Regional Issues

PM0405082594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 May 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev in Alma-Ata [Almaty] and Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov in Tashkent: "President Akayev Reconciles Presidents Nazarbayev and Karimov"]

[Text] The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], and Uzbekistan spent last weekend [30 April-1 May] at the resort city of Cholpon-Ata on Lake Issyk-Kul's north shore.

The meeting was initiated by Askar Akayev, who, judging from unofficial sources, acted as a kind of "peace refereee between the leaders of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. After Nursultan Nazarbayev came out with the idea of a Eurasian union in Moscow it was abruptly rejected by Islam Karimov, specifically during a news conference in Tashkent when Francois Mitterrand's visit was going on here.

The Uzbek press severely criticized the neighboring state's leader: Having returned from Kirghizia, why did he, without consulting other participants in the trilateral treaty on a single economic area, propose that the old USSR be revived? Karimov observed, in particular, that on the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul they had agreed henceforth to act in a coordinated fashion before putting forward something within the CIS framework. In short, relations between Tashkent and Alma-Ata, which had cooled somewhat in recent weeks, were put right.

The three Central Asian republics' presidents signed a communique saying that the three leaders had briefed each other on the sociopolitical situation in their countries and discussed a wide range of questions concerning the general situation in the region and CIS as well as a number of international problems. The main result of the talks which took place, the joint communique notes, was that Kirghizia acceded to the treaty on creating a single economic area which was previously concluded between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The trilateral treaty on a single economic area between Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, and Uzbekistan completely conforms to the provisions of the treaty on creating an economic union of CIS countries, and it is open to all CIS states to join it. At the same time further progress toward economic cooperation, the communique says, requires a more active and constructive mechanism for collaboration.

The three Central Asian countries' presidents discussed specific measures to deal with the damage caused in Kirghizia during the current spring landslides, floods, and other natural disasters. Uzbekistan was the first to give the Kirghiz humanitarian aid by sending food, medicines, and tents.

While the presidents are seeking new ways to cooperate and to deepen integration, the first days of May have found thousands of people in Alma-Ata with cold gas stoves—Uzbekistan has yet again reminded Kazakhstan of its debt for the delivery of gas and has stopped supplies. This is in the capital, while in certain oblasts there has been no gas in homes for months. Serious problems have occurred in Kazakhstan with fuels and lubricants too—at the moment in Alma-Ata fuel is being supplied only to vehicles ensuring the city's security and vital activities, the militia, the ambulance service, and other special services.

Shumeyko Urges Creation of CIS Peacekeeping Force

LD0405173494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, told a POSTFAKTUM agency correspondent of the need to create a contingent of peacekeeping forces from CIS countries. In his opinion, the internal problems of the CIS members should be settled with the aid of this contingent. The Federation Council speaker is certain that it will be noted in the minutes of the Bishkek meeting that CIS parliamentarians are in favor of Commonwealth peacekeeping forces with a defined status and uniform.

Armenian Premier Calls For CIS Common Currency

PM0405082994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 94 p 1

[Boris Mkrtchyan report: "Tough Without Common Bank"]

[Text] Yerevan—Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratian has made a proposal to the CIS heads of government to set up a single interstate bank designed to carry out financial operations among the Commonwealth countries. This bank would also issue a monetary unit common to all of them.

The Armenian premier's explanation for his proposal is that, by introducing a national currency in their own country, the CIS countries cannot fail to use the Russian ruble as the sole means for interstate financial transactions, constantly asking the Central Bank of Russia for loans. All this is leading not only to the devaluation of national currencies, but also to a fall in the ruble rate.

A single CIS interstate bank and a monetary unit common to the Commonwealth countries will promote the rapid restoration of economic ties within the CIS, the economic improvement of the countries of this union, and the further process of their integration, the premier believes.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 May

LD0505051294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0433 GMT 5 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 5 ITAR-TASS—Russia's national newspapers today lead with reports about the agreement on Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho signed in Cairo on Wednesday by Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments: "This agreement is the first and most significant step along the path of implementation of the Washington declaration of principles". The newspaper quotes Yasir 'Arafat as saying this event signifies peace not only for Israel and not only for the entire Arab world, but for mankind as a whole.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA stressed that "the document signed in Cairo yesterday marks the creation of the first-ever Palestinian autonomy and opens a new chapter in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli chapter. Along with this, the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are vieweing their autonomy with apprehension. Much will depend on the ability of the new authorities to improve the desperate situation of the local inhabitants, the overwhelming majority of whom live in abject poverty".

Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev, who is in Cairo in connection with the signing of the agreement on the Palestinian autonomy, told the newspaper TRUD that "the agreement on Gaza and Jericho is the first major step towards durable peace in the region, it marks a historic reconciliation between Israel and its Palestinian neighbours, I hope it will stimulate progress along other lines of the Middle East settlement. The Israeli-Palestinian agreement must be followed by its practical implementation. This will be a stage no less important than the negotiations".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA said in its comment on the signing: "Both Rabin and 'Arafat are in a hurry to sign peace today, not tomorrow. If they failed to do so, the right-wingers would certainly come to power at the next elections in Israel, and their understanding of the word "peace" is quite different. 'Arafat's political career is also at stake—should his policy fail, the irreplaceable PLO leader would be replaced by his irreconcilable opponents".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA noted in this respect that "literally a few hours before the signing, Tel Aviv raised, without any preliminary notice, 25 new disputable questions. But nonetheless 'Arafat and Rabin, unshakable in their desire for peace, sealed the historic document with the signatures by their own hands".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Yabloko [Yavlinskiy Bloc] leader Grigory Yavlinskiy. Asked why his faction was against the political amnesty, which set President Yeltsin's arch-rivals free, Yavlinskiy said: "We voted against because we thought it most important to set up a commission for the investigation for the tragic events of October 3 and 4. It would have inevitably made clear that both sides were to blame for the bloodshed. But the right-wingers and left-wingers agreed on a compromise which set them free from moral condemnation and juridical liability. I am convinced that the question remains. Life itself will put it on our agenda".

PRAVDA also takes up the subject placing a statement by General Valentin Varennikov on its front page who objects against the application of the political amnesty to himself. Varennikov writes "I have no objections to the State Duma decision on amnesty. But I repeat yet again that throughout all stages of the preliminary investigation and during the court trial I never acknowledged and do not acknowledge now the accusations against myself. I declared and declare myself again not guilty."

Valentin Varennikov said he had appealed to the military collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation to institute criminal proceedings against the people guilty of the break-up of the Soviet Union. The text of his letter of appeal is also printed in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA

ROSSIYA. The same newspaper publishes reports about marches and rallies on May first.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview between the newspaper's editor in chief and the chief of the presidential apparatus, Federal Minister Vladimir Kvasov, who comments on lobbying government decisions. "This country has yet to create the institute of lobbyism. And I am sure that it will be created. Such institutes exist in all market economies".

Economy Minister Aleksandr Shokhin reports in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI about the results of the Russian delegation's participation in the recent session of the leading bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as the conference of the finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven countries. Aleksandr Shokhin expressed satisfaction with the results of encounters in Washington, he noted among other things that "an agreement on a 70 million dollar loan to Russia was signed with the World Bank to develop the employment and social insurance services".

Russia, U.S. Come To Rescue in Mideast Peace Signing

LD0405191194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1824 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov and ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo, 4 May—The Russian-U.S. cosponsorship of the search for a Middle East settlement has passed a stern test. The heads of the two countries' diplomatic departments spent two days in the Egyptian capital making strenuous mediating efforts to bring to a successful finale the talks between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, which were crowned today by the conclusion of an historic "peace protocol." Even during the actual signing ceremony, the intermediaries had to come urgently to the assistance of the sides.

Several details of the dramatic episode, which almost obliterated the many months of the "peace marathon," have become known to ITAR-TASS correspondents from informed sources. As he appended his signature to the agreement, Yasir 'Arafat demanded from the United States and Russia additional security guarantees for the territories now being freed. During an enforced break in the signing procedure, the cosponsors gave him the relevant assurances, which insured the Palestinian leader's agreement to sign the document. Experts from the two great powers started consultations on the matter today, and the guarantees are expected to be countersigned tomorrow by the Russian and U.S. heads of diplomacy.

Kozyrev Upbeat on PLO-Israeli Peace Accord

LD0405143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rafael Bikbayev]

[Text] Cairo May 4 TASS—Russia is interested in stability in the Middle East which is located in geographical proximity to its borders, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in Cairo on Wednesday.

Kozyrev attended the ceremony of signing a peace accord between Israel and the PLO to implement limited Palestinian self-rule.

"It is the proof of our closeness that it takes four hours to fly from Moscow to the Middle East and twice as much to the Russian borders," he said.

"I am convinced that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are well aware of Russia's adherence to regional settlement as one of the co-sponsors of the peace process," Kozyrev continued.

He pointed up three key aspects in the Middle East peace process. The first one is Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho. The second one is peaceful co-existence and mutual respect between Israel and Palestinians and "probably even cooperation between them in the future." And lastly, comprehensive settlement in the region.

"We hope that it will be reached in the not so distant future and we will witness the signing of an agreement on not only the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho, but also other territories," the Russian foreign minister added.

Kozyrev praised the "outstanding role" of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in furthering the peace process in the region.

Further Kozyrev Remarks

PM0405190594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 May 94 p 6

[Anatoliy Repin report: "We Will Help As Best We Can"]

[Text] Cairo, 4 May—Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev, who is in Cairo in connection with the signing of the agreement between Israel and the PLO on interim Palestinian autonomy, answered a question posed to him by your TRUD correspondent about Russia's role in the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and in the Near East peace process as a whole:

[Kozyrev] Russia and the United States are the sponsors of the peace process in the Near East, and are carrying out the role they have assumed through constant and I would even say daily contact with each other.

The agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho is the first major step toward general, stable peace in the region; it constitutes a historic reconciliation between Israel and its Palestinian neighbors. I hope that it will act as an incentive for progress in other areas of the Near East settlement.

In this connection it is important to note that both sides' leaders—Chairman 'Arafat and Premier Rabin—recently visited Moscow, which, to my mind, gave them additional possibilities for adopting the historic decision and helped them to withstand pressure from extremists on both sides and all those who do not understand the need for peace. Support from Russia, the United States, and Egypt, and our sincere desire to promote the peace process on the firm foundation of equal rights and fairness are promoting accord between the contracting parties.

The Israeli-Palestinian agreement should be followed by its practical implementation. This is no less important a phase than the talks. Russia, the United States, Egypt, the European Community, and other countries will be involved, together with the Palestinians and the Israelis, in the process of the implementation of the agreements reached. I would say that this international solidarity will make it possible to move in the right direction. In short, if and when the need arises for help from us, we will not delay in coming to their assistance in the most positive spirit.

As for the Russian "Madrid-2" initiative—that is, our proposal to convene a new international conference on the Near East—this idea remains in force. We put it forward (soon after the Hebron tragedy—A.R.) for the purposes of long-term strategy. Our initiative was born at a time when enormous difficulties had arisen and the peace process had to be saved—and the relevant impetus was required for this. But from the very outset it was clear that our immediate aim is to achieve agreements on Gaza and Jericho, and then to move forward to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles (signed by Israel and the PLO in September 1993—A.R.). And I believe that on the path toward peace in the Near East, "Madrid-2" may and will be seen as a means of lending new impetuses to the peace process in the new conditions, and that this idea will be implemented at a suitable moment.

Kozyrev Interviewed on Settlement

LD0505094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0855 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has ended his visit to Egypt [passage omitted]

Before leaving Cairo A. Kozyrev gave an exclusive interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "The agreement signed yesterday [between Israel and the PLO]," he said, "is a good start for the next stage of Middle East settlement. Equally strenuous work is ahead, that is, implementation of the signed document, which will raise many issues, for a new authority means new problems. But we will assist in this, too.

"We stressed very clearly our vital interest in this region which is close to us. Russia therefore will participate in the peace process in the future, too. We are already thinking about the next steps in further developing the Palestinian-Israeli settlement and in other areas. We will pay special attention to the Syrian aspect.

"Russia intends to develop in every possible way its bilateral relations with all the countries in the region, first of all with Egypt. Boris Yeltsin's message was received by President Mubarak warmly and with understanding. Now, without delay, we will start preparing for his forthcoming official visit to Moscow.

"Also, we will develop relations with Israel. Yesterday evening, after the signing, I had a meeting with [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin which was geared toward strengthening our contacts established during the Israeli premier's recent visit to Moscow."

Churkin Urges Pressure on Bosnian Warring Factions

LD0405140494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] There is dangerous brinkmanship in Bosnia today. In this situation, the key world community members should take energetic steps and exert pressure to prevent war and restore peace there, the Russian President's Special Envoy Vitaliy Churkin, a deputy foreign minister, declared in an interview with Interfax on Wednesday.

In his words, pressure should be applied to both sides, the Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian Moslems. "There is a war of nerves going on at Brcko, a confrontation that, in principle, could result in a military clash. That is why energetic actions and pressure are essential. What this really means is that the sides should sign an agreement that would end hostilities, disengage the troops, and would enable the UN to deploy its protection force in former Yugoslavia between the two hostile factions," Churkin said.

In his words, Russia's proposal to convene a conference on Bosnia with Russia's foreign minister, US Secretary of State, EC and UN representatives to take part aims at putting pressure on the belligerents.

Asked when and where such a gathering could take place, Churkin replied, "That may be known shortly. The issue has been discussed by the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his American counterpart Warren Christopher upon their arrival in Cairo to attend a ceremony for signing Israeli-Palestinian accords on Gaza and Jericho."

Kozyrev, Christopher Urge Geneva Meeting on Bosnia

LD0405182294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1721 GMT 4 May 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Cairo, 4 May—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed serious concern over the unstable situation that still pertains in Bosnia-Herzegovina and which contains the threat of a flare-up of new dangerous hot-beds of conflict. During a meeting that took place today in the Egyptian capital, the heads of the foreign policy departments of the two countries called on the warring sides immediately and totally to implement a withdrawal of forces from the established zones around Gorazde and to undertake immediate steps to reduce tension and to prevent offensive military actions in the region of Brcko.

Kozyrev and Christopher also called for the signing, as soon as possible, of an agreement on a total cessation of hostilities over the whole territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina that would envisage the disengagement of military formations, the withdrawal of heavy weapons, and the stationing of UN forces between them. They called for the immediate renewal of talks without preconditions in order to work out a comprehensive settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Russia's foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state are convinced of the necessity for providing a powerful political impulse to the process of finding a Bosnian settlement. They call for the holding of a meeting at ministerial level with the participation of the member countries of the contact group. Such a meeting could take place in Geneva on 13 May.

More on Future Bosnia Talks

LD0405192094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Moscow and Washington for the first time showed complete agreement on the necessity for an urgent international meeting on a settlement in Bosnia. This was announced by Kozyrev's Advisor Galina Sidorova when commenting on the meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher in Cairo today.

Sidorova said that they had discussed a possible meeting between the foreign ministers of the states involved in the settlement of the Bosnian crisis which might take place in Geneva in the near future. Sidorova said the terms were still being worked upon. For instance, Russia, the USA, three EU members—France, Germany and Great Britain and international mediators Torvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen are expected to participate. The final date will be defined during consultations between the future participants in the meeting.

This meeting will open the way for a summit on a settlement in Bosnia with the same countries participating. Kozyrev and Christopher were deeply concerned over the situation around the Bosnian city of Brcko. The situation in Brcko calls for an agreement in order to put an end to all military actions on Bosnian territory, Sidorova said.

Meeting Expected in 'Next Few Days'

LD0505061794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0606 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov and ITAR- TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo May 5 TASS—For the first time Russia and the United States are unanimous in calling for a quadrilateral ministerial conference on the settlement of the Bosnian conflict. The conference will bring together representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations to work out a single plan for the settlement.

It can be surmised that in addition to the two great powers, France, Germany and Britain, who are playing a prominent role in unblocking the situation, are likely to take part in the talks. The meeting will take place in Geneva "literally in the next few days", according to a ranking official of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Geneva ministerial forum, according to the official, can become a prologue to a summit, involving all interested countries, as proposed by Moscow. The idea of a multilateral conference is dictated by an understanding that the guarantees of any one party cannot lead to the settlement of the conflict but can only further exacerbate the problem.

The Russian official stressed that the prompt setting in motion of a mechanism of multilateral negotiations is necessitated by the volatile situation in the area of Brcko. Bitter experience has made clear to every one where such situations might lead. To achieve a universal end to combat activities is now a high priority task, the official said.

Deputy Minister Views Bosnian Conflict

PM0405125194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 May 94 p 1

[Report by Georgiy Shmelev: "Bosnian Conflict: Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel?"]

[Text] It is very important now to focus attention on bringing to an end the process of political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Without a political settlement the world will continue to observe the tragedy, stated Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin in an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent on his return from Geneva, where the latest meeting of the sides in the Bosnian conflict had taken place. He said that with each new unsuccessful round it is increasingly difficult to count on the success of the talks on a Bosnia settlement.

Describing the recent round as "unsuccessful," Vitaliy Churkin noted that at the previous meeting in Brussels in December last year in his opinion an opportunity of reaching agreement was lost: The world community lacked the resolve to see the matter through to a logical conclusion. "And that is even more so now." The deputy foreign minister believes that essentially the participants in the talks are now "going round in circles." That is problems which at the previous round of talks seemed to be the main, final problems were not mentioned at all this time. Some completely different questions arose. Thus while then the chief and paramount obstacle to reaching a definitive agreement seemed to be questions of the Muslim republic's access to the sea and the river Sava, that is questions connected with its survival, now these questions have not been mentioned at all. New questions have arisen and there was the impression that the preceding five or six rounds of talks had not happened t all. This situation, V. Churkin said, confirms the Russian side's concern that unless it adopts a clear position and leads the sides to signing an agreement then disputes on various aspects of this agreement could continue "as long as you like."

What worries me most, Churkin said, is the fact that the world community, not to mention the participants in the talks, seems to have "lost its bearings," and some kind of confusion bordering on panic has arisen. Because nothing is being achieved, important but secondary issues are being brought to the fore. "I am deeply convinced," he stressed, "that without a political settlement the humanitarian problem, however much is done with it, will be on the tragic borderline since as long as people continue to fight—when each side will be thinking of military victory—it will not be possible to meet the population's humanitarian needs." But what is happening now, the deputy minister continued, is that the political aspect of the matter is sometimes forgotten and important but nonetheless secondary humanitarian problems and even "individual episodes" of the overall humanitarian situation are being brought to the fore.

As for the question of air strikes against Bosnia, V. Churkin pointed to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions which speak of the possibility of such actions "from the viewpoint of helping the UN protection forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina and helping the world community's humanitarian measures."

Speaking of the Russian side's position on this issue it cannot be said that Russia opposes any air strikes "a priori," he continued. "If a situation suddenly arises when UN troops really become the target for a direct attack by any of the conflicting side," V. Churkin explained his personal viewpoint, "I will recommend (and I am sure a political decision will be made) that the measure be supported." Or another case: Perhaps a "malevolent action" will be undertaken and some side will not allow humanitarian aid through to dying people and in these cases, he stressed, the toughest measures could perfectly well be taken.

But when people speak of air strikes virtually today or tomorrow to assist the battalion replacement operation (and the changeover is planned for the middle of February [as published] and there is an agreement on assisting this changeover in Srebrenica) then in V. Churkin's opinion such proposals are aimed at diverting attention from the real problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is hard to imagine, he continued, how it is possible to use air strikes to open the airport in Tuzla or effect the replacement of the Canadian battalion with a Dutch one. It is absolutely clear that if air strikes are be delivered in the Srebrenica region there will be no changeover—fighting will begin and there will be no question at all of any humanitarian aid.

As for the displeasure voiced recently by "some circles and people" over Lord Owen's actions in a Bosnian settlement, then in V. Churkin's opinion the latter's replacement or resignation from the post of cochairman of the international London conference on a settlement in the former Yugoslavia would be a "serious mistake" right now. Lord Owen, the Russian Federation deputy foreign minister said, is the only man who has been concerned with settlement issues from the outset and "he has concentrated all the threads of the negotiations in his hands" and if he were to be replaced now "any of the three sides in Bosnia which does not want a settlement could simply exploit this fact to continue to fool everyone, to raise ever new questions, or return to old ones and so on and so forth."

Vitaliy Churkin recalled that in the past Lord Owen adopted a very tough anti-Serbian stance and called for air strikes against individual targets. "When this did not happen calls began to be heard for Lord Owen's replacement." The Russian Federation deputy foreign minister believes that it is very difficult now to find a worthy replacement for Lord Owen and that it is simply impossible without losing the pace of the negotiations. That would essentially mean, he said, that the world community would acknowledge its impotence and "talk would then turn to a completely new and large range of political efforts with vague chances of success."

The next round, Vitaliy Churkin said in conclusion, is scheduled for 10 February [as published] in Geneva. This meeting has been set more modest tasks. And it will take place with a narrower range of participants and the representatives of the Bosnian sides will meet to discuss confidence building measures. That is it will be a meeting with limited aims.

Russian, U.S. Defense Expert Groups Meet in Moscow

LD0405135794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Another meeting of the bilateral expert group from the Russian and US defense departments began in Moscow on Wednesday.

A spokesman from the Defense Ministry's information and press department has told Interfax that for three days experts will discuss issues associated with European security, the situation in Bosnia, and problems on Russia's joining the Partnership for Peace program. The two sides also intend to exchange views on nuclear safety cooperation and the reduction and further elimination of wapons of mass destruction.

Experts Discuss Strategic Stability

LD0505085894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0846 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—A bilateral group of Russian and U.S. experts from the Russian and U.S. defence ministries met in session in Moscow on May 4. The meeting is being held in a constructive and friendly atmosphere, said Russian Deputy Chief of Staff Dmitriy Kharchenko today.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Kharchenko said that the sides exchanged opinions on problems of European security, the situation in Bosnia, Russia's joining the Partnership for Peace programme, nuclear weapons in Ukraine and prospects for the development of contacts between the armed forces of the two countries. General Kharchenko pointed out that the Pentagon delegation led by the U.S. defence secretary's aide for issues of nuclear security, Ashton Carter, displayed a particular interest in cooperation in ensuring nuclear security, the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

The Russian delegation to the talks led by the Russian defence minister's aide for military politics, Gennadiy Ivanov, informed the American side about the Russian Duma's stance on joint Russo-U.S. exercises of peacekeeping forces scheduled to be held at a Totsk test site in the Orenburg region in May. Pentagon officials believe that it is important to explain to Russian lawmakers that similar exercises are scheduled to be conducted next time on the American soil. The U.S. point of view will be brought to the notice of the Russian military and political leadership, Kharchenko said. The meeting between the two working groups of the U.S. and Russian defence departments continues.

U.S.-Russian Exercise Unlikely To Go Ahead

PM0405115794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 May 94 p 3

[Article by Boris Glebov: "Will The Russian-American Exercises Take Place?"]

[Excerpt] Judging by the latest, very confidential information (from President Yeltsin's entourage), the Russian-American exercises planned this July for the command staffs of the two countries' peacemaking forces will not take place. The reasons given vary greatly: From the negative stance of certain State Duma deputies to foreign policy reasons—the recent bombardment of Bosnian Serb positions by NATO aircraft. The latter reason is clearly the most important, after all, what were the Russian and U.S. servicemen intending to rehearse at the Totskiy military training area. The joint bombing of Serbs? But since the diplomats are not agreed on our countries' approaches to peacemaking in Bosnia, the military have nothing to coordinate at the exercises.

Although, in fact, there was nothing sinister about the "deceased" Russian-American exercises: No more than 250 servicemen were to have participated on either side. Servicemen from the 27th Motorized Rifle Division were to have been Russia's representatives (the division is registered in that capacity at the United Nations and is actually billeted in Totsk). The units of the Russian peacemaking forces in the Dniester region, North Ossetia, and so on are formed from this division's units. The plan was for servicemen from the U.S. 3d Infantry Division to represent the U.S. Army at the exercises (it is stationed in West Germany and is the backbone of the U.S. peacemaking force in Europe). There would not have been any armored formations at the exercises since the main purpose of them was to elaborate common approaches to the planning and conduct of peacemaking actions connected with operations to maintain peace in trouble spots. The only military hardware the Americans were planning to take to Russia was 50 jeeps and 10 or so trucks to transport people and baggage.

The actual command staff exercises were intended to be held 6-14 July 1994 at the Totsk training area, the very place where tests of the first Soviet atom bomb were carried out in 1953. Do U.S. defenders of the environment know about this? After all, the dashing U.S. soldiers nearly marched onto radioactive soil. Is it not a danger to their priceless health? I won't ask about the danger to Russian servicemen's health—a futile question. But let us get back to our exercises.

Apparently, these maneuvers will indeed not take place in Russia in the immediate future, despite the fact that the Americans had been through all the details of their stay in Totsk. The latest visit by the U.S. delegation led by U.S. Colonel Deyton Kit [name as transliterated] was 18-22 April 1994. The Americans were intending to bring everything with them (perhaps including drinking water and toilet paper). For the hire of barracks and Russian equipment and communications facilities the U.S. side was expecting to pay the Russian Defense Ministry $2 million! But, alas, we will not be seeing any of this money now, it will stay in the United States.

In fact, initially the intention was to conduct the joint exercises in the United States, but, obviously, the Russian side could not find the $2 million to transport baggage and personnel. Then the Russian side suggested Duisburg (Germany) as the venue for the joint exercises. But the German leadership was not enthusiastic about Moscow's initiative, so the interested sides decided on Totsk as the venue for the joint exercises, since this would cost the Russian side practically nothing in hard currency.

But, as it happens, the price was a quiet scandal in parliament, demands from the stubborn opposition, and, as a result, no joint exercises on Russian territory. It is not worth the trouble, as they say. [passage omitted]

Editorial: Clinton Fails To Clarify Foreign Policy

PM0405151794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Sychev report: "President Clinton Survived 90-Minute TV Interrogation"]

[Text] Viewers of CNN have spent 90 minutes with the U.S. President and his foreign policy. Bill Clinton tried to convince the viewers that in the world arena "weakness, indecisiveness, and a lack of principle" are qualities not characteristic of Washington.

Not one of the journalists or politicians from the United States, Cuba, Poland, South Korea, Israel, or the many other countries enabled by CNN to question the president in person was able to catch him out. The president was steadfast even though his administration's foreign policy did not become any clearer after his 90-minute defense of it on live television.

Bill Clinton told Lawrence Pezzullo, the U.S. representative to Haiti, expelled from the island by the military regime, that he has not yet abandoned the idea of using military force to restore democracy there.

He promised North Korea friendship if Pyongyang agrees to an international inspection of its nuclear facilities where, it is believed, work is being carried out to create a weapon of mass destruction.

Clinton is convinced that Beijing has partly rectified the human rights situation and would thus like to extend to China most-favored-nation status in trade with the United States. But the situation is far from perfect. For that reason the possibility of depriving China of trade privileges remains in existence.

South Africa was promised an increase in U.S. aid, on which a "dream will be built" there [na kotoruyu tam budet "postroyena skazka"]. As for Bosnia, the problems there "have proved far more difficult than I imagined when I was running for the presidency," Clinton said.

President Clinton claimed Russia, the Near East, and trade problems as the big successes of his foreign policy. But at the present time the world is in a state of turmoil and is resisting the attempts of the United States, the world's leader and guarantor of the universal standards of human rights, to call it to order. Furthermore, the absence of a second superpower (the Soviet Union) has, on the president's admission, not made foreign policy problems any easier.

Shokhin Sums Up Results of Washington Talks

PM0505103594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Shokhin, leader of Russian delegation at talks with IMF and World Bank in Washington, under the "Dangerous Version" rubric: "West's Financial Circles Support Russian Course. Meetings in Washington Inspire Feeling of Optimism"]

[Text] I have already had occasion in Washington to answer questions from representatives of the press on the results of our delegation's participation in the work of the session of the leading organs of the IMF and the World Bank, as well as the conference of finance ministers and heads of the central banks of G-7 countries which was held at the same time. The results of our trip could be briefly reduced to the points listed below.

But I would like first of all to explain the reasons for Russia's presence at these important international financial forums. The lessons of recent years demonstrate that the transitional economies' need for bilateral and multilateral financial assistance is far more considerable than previously thought. That is why close cooperation with the IMF and the use of its resources remain critically important not just in the short term but also in the medium term. The systemic transformations fund created a year ago for the purpose of assisting structural reforms has proven its effectiveness in this regard. Nevertheless, broader use must be made of the IMF's existing instruments.

We stated all of that frankly at the session of the Interim Committee of the IMF Board of Governors. The foreign debt problem, for example, is very topical today for states with a transitional economy. In 1993 the easing of the debt burden which we inherited from the former Union formed the major part of the West's official assistance to Russia. We appreciate our creditors' understanding of our temporary difficulties. It will take great effort to support Russia's balance of payments both this year and in the next few years. Because in these years the debt servicing payments are due to reach their peak. We have no other option but to ask our creditors for a new rescheduling of the debt repayment.

Our delegation described the Russian Government's rigorous but very realistic program of economic reforms. In our view, Russia, in cooperation with the multinational financial organizations, will be able to achieve a breakthrough and begin moving toward stabilization and economic recovery in 1994. All the conditions are in place for this: Inflation has begun to be curbed, an extremely realistic draft federal budget has been approved, the government intends to adhere resolutely to a policy of financial stabilization and systemic transformations and not make changes to the currency exchange system, and the Central Bank will not undertake any measures to maintain the ruble exchange rate artificially.

On the basis of all that we raised a whole series of major problems of concern to us at the meetings which we attended. The essential nature of the agenda lent itself to that: Unlike previous years, the discussions which were held were not on the question of whether our government intends to continue the course of reforms but on the question of building a foundation for their implementation and, specifically, of creating conditions conducive to attracting foreign investments into Russia, introducing a tax regime to aid that process, and insuring such capital investments against political risks.

At the meeting with the G-7 ministers we raised the question of the discriminatory approach against Russia in the international markets in aluminum, uranium, and space technology among others. We support the creation of a social and legal base whereby Russia would be regarded as a country with a transitional economy, not as a state with a centralized trading system. In that connection we stressed once more the need to abolish the Jackson-Vanik amendment insofar as it applies to the Russian Federation, an amendment which, as is well known, linked the granting to the former USSR of most-favored nation status in trade with the United States to the USSR's "conduct" in the human rights sphere, above all Jewish emigration.

There was another set of questions on reorienting the previously announced package support for the Russian reforms to projects in the social sphere. Finally we examined problems pertaining to Russia's mutual relationship with the creditors of the Paris Club. We stated bluntly that this year our potential for servicing the foreign debt will be even more limited than it was last year. And we found understanding. By all accounts the Paris Club and the Russian Government will reach agreement on changing the structure of our foreign debt payments by the end of May or the start of June. We are looking forward to more favorable conditions for settling the debt than the deferral granted by the club last year of a payment of $15 billion out of the total of $18 billion.

We also put forward an initiative on Russia's possible membership of the Paris Club as a creditor. The fact is that many developing countries owe large amounts to Russia as the successor in law to the USSR. Furthermore, in our relations with international financial organizations and the G-7, we have always stressed that we are not only asking for support for our course of reforms but are also acting as a donor toward former Soviet republics and are bearing enormous costs as a result. We are not insisting on permanent membership of the Paris Club but a mechanism for our participation at least as an observer must be created.

With the representatives of the World Bank we discussed the possibility of Russia's obtaining several major credits in the coming months for various economic reform programs, including a second loan for the modernization of the oil industry ($500 million), two credits for the reform of the agricultural sector ($325 million), the modernization of financial institutions ($200 million), and the reform of entrepreneurial structures ($200 million). We hope that the World Bank will be able to allocate a large part of these credits as early as the end of the current financial year (which expires 30 June). The agreement to grant a loan for the development of an employment and social protection service has already been signed with the World Bank: We will receive $70 million from it for that purpose.

Thus it may be said that Russia's problems and our relations with the leading international financial organizations were at the center of attention of these meetings. The Russian Federation Government's present course found understanding and support. For my part I can say that the results of the meetings in Washington left us with a sense of satisfaction.

Proposal for Third Hague Peace Conference Viewed

PM0405152994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 May 94 p 3

["Statement by the Russian Federation Foreign Minister 'On a Third Peace Conference'"—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI headline]

[Text] The centenary of the First Peace Conference, convened on Russia's initiative in The Hague in 1899, is approaching. This forum and the subsequent Second Peace Conference in 1907 were very important milestones in the world community's life, in the establishment of the principles of the international rule of law. The conventions, declarations, and other decisions adopted at it imparted powerful momentum to the creation of a system of peaceful settlement of disputes and humanization of the military sphere, and placed the problem of arms limitation and disarmament on a practical footing.

Although they were unable to prevent the conflagration of two world wars, the conferences in The Hague were a great beginning, determining the main direction of the development of international life in the 20th century—the desire for peace and the establishment of the foundations of philanthropy and justice.

Today, as we approach the third millennium, mankind has no right to pass up an opportunity of strengthening international peace and asserting the principles of law which, in the conditions of the current multipolar world structure, must form the basis of a new global equilibrium. Vigorous steps will be needed to translate this age-old dream into reality.

On behalf of President B.N. Yeltsin and on behalf of Russia as chairman of the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conferences, the Russian Federation foreign minister proposes that all states discuss the idea of convening a Third International Peace Conference in 1999.

In making this proposal Russia is guided primarily by the decisions of the Second Hague Conference in 1907, which recommended that the participating states "gather for a third Peace Conference." We are expecting interest in this proposal, in view of the position of the Nonaligned Movement, the decisions of the UN General Assembly, which declared 1990-1999 the Decade of International Law, and the recommendations in this sphere by the 1993 conference of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

The preliminary agenda for the third conference might be as follows:

—improving the system for settling disputes, including the possible amendment or revision of the 1899 and 1907 conventions;

—filling the gaps in international humanitarian law to be applied during armed conflicts, and developing it;

—creating a system of international criminal justice in respect of crimes against peace and mankind and other international offenses.

If there is support for these proposals, Russia is prepared to submit for examination by the states ideas on the program for the forum, as happened during the preparations for the First and Second Hague Peace Conferences. For our part, we are amenable to a dialogue on the content, organization, and holding of a Third Peace Conference.

In accordance with the 1907 decisions, it is necessary to institute a preparatory committee two years before it opens in order to study proposals and to draft documents and also recommendations on the organization of its work and the procedure to be applied. We are willing to participate actively in the establishment and work of this body.

Russia favors the formation of a steering committee within the framework of the Court of Arbitration Administrative Council to prepare proposals connected with revising the 1899 and 1907 conventions on the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Administrative Council's recommendations on the results of the steering committee's work could be a significant contribution to the preparation of a third conference.

Of course, the organizational measures must be implemented in collaboration with the United Nations, within the framework of the Decade of International Law it has proclaimed.

As for the venue of the Third Peace Conference, if the Dutch Government agrees, then, like the two previous conferences, it could be held in The Hague.

One hundred years, particularly in the context of the dynamic 20th century, is an enormously long time. Although, leafing through old documents relating to the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conferences, one never ceases to be amazed that the values laid down then have not depreciated over the years. The link between the eras is eloquently demonstrated in the 12 August 1898 Russian Foreign Ministry note on convening the First Hague Peace Conference: "...This conference could augur well for the next century. It would join in one mighty force the efforts of all states that sincerely want the great idea of universal peace to triumph over the realm of trouble and strife. At the same time, it would seal their agreement through the joint recognition of the principles of law and justice on which the security of states and prosperity of the peoples are based."

How relevant these words are to us now.

Republics, Regions Threatened With Gas Cutoff

LD0405193594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Russia's natural gas monopoly Gazprom has warned several republics and regions of the Russian Federation that it would cut off gas supplies to their industrial enterprises due to their debts.

In telegrams sent to the republics of Karachay-Circassia, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Bashkiria and Daghestan, to Perm, Novosibirsk, Astrakhan, Kemerovo, Rostov and Voronezh Regions, and to Stavropol Territory, Gazprom says it will suspend its gas deliveries to them between May 4 and 9 and demands that they present schedules for the payment of their arrears, totaling about three billion rubles, a sum which, according to Gazprom sources, is much higher than the overall debt for Russian gas of other former Soviet republics, including Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

The sources told the Oil Information Agency that Moldova had still not presented its own schedule for the repayment of a debt which had reached 131 billion rubles by April 1. As of April 15, Gazprom slashed its supplies to Moldova by one-third. The sources said that this year the republic had transferred "not a single ruble" to Gazprom's bank account, having paid part of its arrears with food exports. The Russian-Moldovan talks on the debt problem, originally scheduled for the end of April, have been postponed until this Friday, the sources said.

In an agreement signed by the two countries' governments late last year, Moldova pledged to send to Russia 145 million dollars' worth of food and consumer goods as payment for part of the 3.5 billion cubic meters of gas the republic is due to receive from Gazprom this year.

Russia today charges Moldova 80 dollars for 1,000 cubic meters of gas. Moldova, in turn, charges Russia 1.5 dollars per 100 kilometers for every 1,000 cubic meters of gas pipelined through Moldovan territory to Romania.

Yeltsin Claims 'No Military Aims' in Estonia

LD0505095794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveriyan]

[Text] Tallinn May 5 TASS—Russia and Estonia are toiling over a draft agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops from that Baltic republic. According to the leader of the Estonian delegation Vaino Reinart, Estonia is ready to sign the agreement and "the only obstacle to the signing is Russia's desire to link the problem to the provision of social guarantees to the Russian Army pensioners residing in the republic".

The Russian delegation leader Vasiliy Svirin met Estonian President Lennart Meri on the eve of the today's round of negotiations. According to him, the results of their conversation provide grounds for the hope that the parties to the drawn-out "divorce procedure" between Russia and Estonia will be able to muster enough strength and desire to get down to the search for compromise solutions.

"Russia pursues no military aims or interests in Estonia," Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared in the Kremlin on Wednesday. He stressed that "Russia intends to withdraw all troops from Estonia, but we want this to be done on a legal basis, as is being done in relations between Russia and Lithuania, Russia and Latvia". If Estonia manifests good-will, we for our part will respond with full accord", Yeltsin said.

Negotiations behind closed doors will last for two days. After the end of this, the nineteenth round of negotiations, the heads of the delegations are expected to hold press conferences on the results of negotiations.

180 Strategic Missiles Removed From Ukraine

LD0405163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS—Ukraine has removed to Russia 180 strategic nuclear missiles as of today, Igor Sergeyev, commander of the Russian strategic missile forces, said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, Sergeyev said that the missiles will be scrapped at Russian plants as envisaged by the agreements signed by Russia, Ukraine and the United States and START-1 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Sergeyev recalled that under the Lisbon Protocol, Byelorussia [Belarus], Kazakhstan and Ukraine are also parties to the treaty which has been ratified by the U.S., Russia, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan.

He stressed that Russia has already scrapped over 350 missiles and about 300 missile launchers. He added, however, that the implementation of the treaty depends not only on Russia, but also other ex-Soviet republics which posses nuclear weapons.

Russia has signed an agreement with Byelorussia to transfer a group of strategic missile troops in Byelorussia under Russia's control. Russia is also withdrawing strategic missile units from that republic.

A similar agreement was signed with Kazakhstan in March 1994. Both sides are now working on an agreement on the elimination of missile facilities.

Special Envoy on Talks With Ukraine

MK0405101094 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 17, 4-10 May 94 (Signed to press 3 May) p 2

[Interview with special envoy Yuriy Dubinin, chief Russian delegate at negotiations with Ukraine, by Andrey Sharyy in the "Diplomatic Paths" column: "Misfire"—place and date not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Excerpts] The main diplomatic path of the day leads us from Moscow to Kiev. The talks in Sevastopol on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet have ended in scandal. Yet special envoy Yuriy Dubinin, head of the Russian delegation at the negotiations with Ukraine, whom ROSSIYA's correspondent asked to comment, prefers not to dramatize what has happened.

[Dubinin] The aim of the negotiations, as is known, was defined by the presidents of the two countries in a special agreement. Concrete provisions were formulated on which accord was to be reached: separate basing of the navies and the proportions of sharing out the battleships and vessels. It cannot be said that the negotiations in Sevastopol were completely without result. Pavel Grachev showed maximum flexibility, and as a result parameters bearing on the division of Black Sea Fleet ships and vessels were defined. As far as navy basing is concerned, however, the actions of the Ukrainian delegation, regrettably, fully deviated from the instructions by the Ukrainian president.

[Sharyy] To what do you attribute this?

[Dubinin] Let the Ukrainians straighten this out themselves. I would like to confine myself to stating the fact. Incidentally, lying in front of me is a report from Kiev about a statement made by Kravchuk after the negotiations: "I am for a Russian Navy base to be created in Sevastopol in accordance with international legal norms." But apparently certain forces in Ukraine do not like presidential orders. [passage omitted]

[Sharyy] The development of relations between the two fraternal peoples is nonetheless proceeding against a rather negative backdrop, accompanied by an endless chain of incidents: Crimea, the Black Sea Fleet, the gas pipeline, nuclear problems, and once again Crimea and the fleet. Maybe Russia should take a tougher line?

[Dubinin] I do not think that this is the hope that should feed us. After all, politicians exist not in a vacuum, but in a broad sense their actions are subordinated to the will of the people. The more misfires—as long as we are doomed to have them—the more clearly the public opinion of both countries sees the reasons behind the problems, the more clear-cut will be their assessment, and the quicker the will of the people will be expressed. [passage omitted]

[Sharyy] In its time Russia stated the need to prepare and sign a public-political treaty with Ukraine that would regulate all spheres of bilateral relations. When could such a document appear?

[Dubinin] We have accumulated a fairly rich material. Nearly 80 intergovernment and interdepartmental agreements have been signed, which substantially facilitates work on the text of the treaty. But such documents are signed only after the field of relations between the countries has been cleared. Then law, the political will of the people, and actual reality can be adjusted to each other. Any, even the most important, document is an intermediate stage in these relations, but hardly a point of their departure. If everything depended only on Russia we would be within arm's reach of the result. But Moscow cannot conclude a treaty with itself and naturally we do not posses all the information about the sum total of "inputs" on the Ukrainian side.

[Sharyy] From the professional, diplomatic point of view, what are the difficulties in the negotiations with the Ukrainians?

[Dubinin] First of all, psychological difficulties arise, because with a whole number of our current partners we were familiar also yesterday, when we worked in almost adjacent offices. Some Ukrainian representatives are displaying certain peculiarities that are rather unusual in diplomatic practice. If they do not like a member of the Russian delegation, they seem to be doing everything to remove him: They apparently believe that the fate of the talks depends on a particular individual, not on the country's position. Sometimes there are unnecessary emotional outbursts, as was the case with the detention of Pavel Grachev's plane in Sevastopol. What did the Ukrainian colleagues want to achieve? After all, Ukraine hardly needs two defense ministers. But all of this can be overcome. When we begin to work with a common aspiration to achieve a goal, we find a common language quickly. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Commission Discusses Tajikistan

LD0405194494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 4 May—A further meeting of the interdepartmental commission on Tajikistan has been held at the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry. Cooperation between the two countries was discussed in the light of the visit to Moscow, starting tomorrow, by Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the National Assembly of Tajikistan.

Considerable attention at the meeting, which was chaired by Anatoliy Adamishin, first deputy head of the Russian Federation's foreign policy department, was devoted to the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and to the complex of problems connected with a political settlement of the situation in Tajikistan.

Adamishin on Eve of Tajik Leader's Visit

LD0405203794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Interview with Anatoliy Adamishin, Russian first deputy foreign minister, by correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando in the Russian Foreign Ministry on 4 May; from the "Novosti" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Pavel Ogorodnikov] Emomali Rakhmonov, the chairman of the National Assembly of Tajikistan, is beginning his visit to Moscow tomorrow [5 May]. It is expected that a complex of problems relating to political settlement both in Tajikistan itself, and on its border with Afghanistan, will be discussed during the talks.

[Shkirando] Anatoliy Leonidovich, what role is Tajikistan currently playing in Russia's life as a whole, apart from its foreign policy?

[Adamishin] In Tajikistan, a whole range of very important issues have, as it were, become interwoven, each of which directly affects the interests of Russia. Russia has made a considerable effort to extinguish the flame of civil war and find a way toward national reconciliation.

[Shkirando] Incidentally, the first round of Tajik-Tajik talks has just ended. To what extent has Moscow, and in particular the Foreign Ministry, succeeded in bringing the positions of the two sides closer together?

[Adamishin] The two sides have sat down round the negotiating table. This is something that we have tried to achieve several times. They have at last agreed that only a political settlement can be a route toward resolving Tajikistan's problems.

[Shkirando] One of the results of the first round of talks was the statement that both sides would stop hostilities in order to step up the process of talks. However, we know that explosions are still being heard on the border with Afghanistan.

[Adamishin] Regrettably, the phrasing they had there was less binding. Agreements in concrete terms are still to be concluded and, of course, serious criticisms can be made with regard to the opposition's behavior on the border. I will say this: It is necessary to continue this process to which the first Moscow round of talks has given a powerful impetus.

[Shkirando] What concrete results can be expected of Emomali Rakhmonov's visit to Moscow?

[Adamishin] I think all these problems will be discussed—the problems of domestic political reforms in Tajikistan, of finding a common language with the opposition, of economic cooperation between Tajikistan and Russia, the problem of strengthening the border which is the border of the entire CIS—this is in fact our border because, as I sometimes say, we have no other border between there and the Arctic Ocean, which requires defending. But there such factors are in play as arms smuggling, drug trafficking, and so on and so forth. This should be constantly borne in mind in order to realize the entire complexity of the situation in Tajikistan. Finally, the problem of the Russian-speaking population: Its numbers are decreasing in Tajikistan but they are still not small enough to be negligible. In a word, the whole gamut of our cooperation and involvement of the peacemaking forces will be the subject of the talks between the two heads of state.

Visit by High-Level Tajik Delegation Previewed

LD0505062394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0612 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe May 5 TASS—A delegation of the Tajik Government led by chairman of the Tajik parliament Emomali Rakhmonov is leaving for Moscow today, ITAR-TASS learned from the press service of the head of the Tajik Republic.

During the visit the Tajik delegation is expected to meet Russian top leaders to discuss a wide range of questions on deepening and expanding political, economic and military cooperation between the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. The sides are expected to discuss the merger of the Russian and Tajik monetary systems as well.

The Tajik delegation includes Chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers Abdulmadjid Samadov, Chairman of the Tajik Central Bank Kayum Kavmidinov and a large group of experts.

Problems faced by the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan and issues of reinforcing the state border with Afghanistan will be high on the agenda of the Moscow talks held in the framework of the visit to Russia by the Chairman of the Tajik parliament Emomali Rakhmonov which begins today, said Anatoliy Adamishin, Russian deputy foreign minister, on Wednesday.

During Rakhmonov's visit to Moscow the sides will discuss issues of Russo-Tajik economic cooperation and an internal political situation in Tajikistan and in partucular, prospects for a dialogue with the opposition. According to Adamishin, Russia has made considerable efforts to put out the flame of civil war in Tajikistan. The Russian diplomat welcomed the results of the first round of talks between Dushanbe and the opposition, and in particular, the fact acknowledged by the sides that a key to the solution of the problem is the political settlement of the situation in Tajikistan.

Kozyrev Welcomes 'Epoch-Making' Election in RSA

LD0505000094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2202 GMT 4 May 94

[ITAR-TASS special correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov and ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo, 5 May—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is here on a visit, made the following press statement to the ITAR-TASS correspondents:

"There has been an epoch-making event in the Republic of South Africa that has put the country's development onto a democratic footing—namely, the country's first-ever universal elections.

"The world community, which has for decades been persistently striving for a restoration of racial and social justice in the RSA, today notes that this goal has been achieved. For its part, Russia, which has invariably supported all the constructive efforts of the South African Government, parties, and public organizations along the path of democratic transformations, shares with everyone a feeling of deep satisfaction at the results of these efforts.

"We believe that favorable prospects are opening up for the harmonious economic and social development of the peoples of South Africa. Much will depend on the readiness of all the country's political forces for constructive interaction similar to what they have shown during the period of preparations for the elections.

"Russia expresses its readiness to cooperate with the new democratic South Africa and hopes that the good relations that have been formed between our countries and peoples will in the coming period be further developed in the interests of universal peace and prosperity."

Foreign Ministry Seeks Cooperation

LD0405160894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1352 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 4 May—The Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry expressed its willingness to cooperate with the new democratic South Africa. A statement issued by the foreign policy department voiced the hope that the good relations that have taken shape between the two countries and their peoples "will, in the period that lies ahead, be further developed in the interests of world peace and prosperity."

In the opinion of the Russian Foreign Ministry, history's first general election in the South Africa is an event "that has fundamentally altered the course of historical development of that country and of the region as a whole."

"The international community, which has for decades sought persistently to bring about a restoration of racial and social justice in South Africa, notes today that that goal has been attained. For its part, Russia, which has invariably backed all constructive efforts by the government, parties, and public organizations in South Africa along the road of democratic transformation, shares with everyone a sense of profound satisfaction with the results of those efforts," the Foreign Ministry statement stresses.

Greek Foreign Minister Postpones Visit to Moscow

LD0405153494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The visit of the head of the Greek Foreign Ministry Karolas Papoulias to Moscow scheduled for May 3-5 "has been postponed for an indefinite term." The new date is to be coordinated via diplomatic channels, a top-ranking Russian diplomat in charge for Greece reported to Interfax.

He does not rule out that the contact between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Karolas Papoulias can take place in Cairo.

As it is known, on Tuesday Kozyrev came to Cairo, the Egyptian capital, to participate in signing of the agreement on Gaza Strip and Jericho between Israel and Palestine as a representative of the country-co-sponsor of the peaceful process in the Middle East. "As far as Papoulias is concerned, his presence in Cairo is also obligatory because at present Greece chairs the European Union," said Interfax interlocutor.

Deputy Defense Minister Meets ROK Counterpart

LD0405203194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin praised the results of his South Korean counterpart Yi Pyong-tae visit to Russia that ended Tuesday [3 May]. He told Interfax that the Republic of Korea was a very important partner for Russia in consolidating security in the Asian-Pacific region.

He said that Russia's relations with the Republic of Korea were a major factor helping Russia enter what he called the Asian-Pacific integration system.

The South Korean defense minister met with Kokoshin and Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff, to discuss bilateral military political relations and cooperation in providing security in the region.

Moscow To Help Upgrade Indian Fighters

LD0505075394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] India has finally decided to upgrade, with Russia's assistance, the MiG-21 bis fighters of the Indian Air Force.

This was stated by M. Mallikarjun, India's Minister of State for Defense, in parliament in Delhi. He said talks with Russia on this issue had ended and that a relevant protocol of intention had been signed.

Political Issues

Businessmen To Sign Accord Agreement in Kremlin

LD0505061294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0605 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—A second stage of signing an agreement on civic accord will be held in the Kremlin today. The document will be signed by representatives of industrial, banking and entrepreneurial associations, president's chief of staff Sergey Filatov told ITAR-TASS that over 200 public organisations declared that they were ready to sign the agreement. [sentence as recevied]

The agreement provides for main guarantees of stability in society, making amendments to the constitution by means of conciliatory procedures, pledges not to stage political campaigns for the purpose of holding early elections and a ban on the use of force methods in the settlement of conflicts.

The first stage of signing the civic accord pact was held on April 28, when the document was signed by leaders of executive and legislative branches of power, subjects of the federation, representatives of political, public and religious organisations.

According to Filatov, the agreement on civic accord has "positively affected the general climate in society and clearly showed a strong will of the Russian people to attain peace and calm." Filatov is convinced that the agreement on civic accord will help avoid political turmoils and create normal conditions for carrying out economic reforms.

Agrarians To Decide on Accord Treaty Signing

LD0405162694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Leaders of the Agrarian Party and its parliamentary faction, the Agrarian Union and the Agricultural Trade Union Central Committee will meet in Moscow on May 10 in order to examine and to weigh up once again the agreement on agricultural policy guidelines for the next two years. The agreement has recently been signed with the Russian government. Afterwards, the Agrarians will make their final decision whether or not to sign the treaty on civil accord. This was announced by Deputy Chairman of the Agrarian Union, Gennadiy Kulik. The union includes Russia's biggest agricultural enterprises.

Kulik suggested that this meeting was needed since none of the signatories had as yet seen the final text of the document. That is why the Agrarian Party, the Agrarian Union and the Agricultural Trade Union wanted to make sure if the government had accepted all their demands.

In particular, the Agrarians insisted that the government included into the treaty a number of obligations in order to prevent forceful pressure on farmers when choosing forms of property, to ensure Russia's independence in food supply and to support the agricultural regions with 10 or 15 percent of the budget expenses. Several other conditions have also been put forward.

The agreement was signed on April 30 on the day after the ceremony of signing of the treaty on civil accord in the Kremlin. The Agrarian leaders did not take part in the ceremony.

Accord Pact Proves 'Stabilizing Factor'

PM0405151994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 94 p 4

[Article by Sergey Chugayev of IZVESTIYA: "Social Accord Treaty Stabilizes Situation in Russia"]

[Text] The calm, peaceful atmosphere in which the May Day festivities largely passed off in Moscow and throughout Russia provides serious grounds for the conclusion that the Treaty on Social Accord signed ahead of the holidays has proven quite an effective document, contrary to many forecasts.

Essentially before the signing of the treaty Russia was once again confronted with a choice: Either switch to resolving all political, economic, and class contradictions through talks and compromise, or continue the war until victory. Until one side had totally annihilated its political opponents. Today it is becoming quite clear that what transpired in October of last year in Moscow was a sharp skirmish between forces seeking to destroy their opponent and forces seeking accord. As we can see, those who were victorious in October have used their victory not in order to annihilate their opponents but in order to achieve accord.

The treaty's critics declare that it has been imposed from a position of strength, concerns only the elite, and originated in the Kremlin, not in the midst of the people's masses. This is fundamentally true. But it should not be forgotten that, first, it is a matter of the constitutional strength of the president and the executive branch, and, second, the political elites that took part in signing the treaty reflect precisely the sentiments of the people's masses. Scarcely anyone would dispute Russian society's desire for peace and accord inside the country.

Ultimately what matters is not the form of the treaty. What matters is the fact that at long last the idea of a quest for dialogue between different political forces has met with broad support. Such documents, even if they outwardly appear superficial, are entirely capable of changing the face of society and helping it to embark firmly on the road of democratic development and rid itself once and for all of the threat of dictatorship which constantly hangs over it (as confirmed by A. Rutskoy's recent statement regarding his intention to create a social-patriotic, essentially paramilitary party in order to seize power). And the president of Russia, as the initiator of the conclusion of the treaty, here played what is for him a not altogether common constructive role.

At the same time, paradoxical though it may appear, the treaty on accord has split the Russian political elite into two camps—signatories and nonsignatories. This is primarily testimony to the strict pragmatism of both camps. Characteristically, the killing of State Duma Deputy A. Aydzerdzis on the eve of the signing of the treaty, contrary to many expectations, did not wreck the signing ceremony. Incidentally, the same goes for the president's refusal to replace the minister of internal affairs.

If you analyze the deep-seated essence of the treaty, you may come to the conclusion that it offers essentially a mechanism for the preservation, redistribution, and transfer of power in Russia. It is easy to see that the overwhelming majority of signatories to the treaty are already part of the power structure in one degree or form or another. By the fact of their signature they demonstrated that they are ready to waive some convictions in order to start cooperation with the president and the executive branch without waiting for the next elections and that they are prepared to continue this cooperation even after 1996. Naturally, they are hoping here to increase their share of power.

V. Zhirinovskiy's party is acting most frankly here. The party leaders declare quite frankly that, unlike V. Zorkin, who once wanted to see B. Yeltsin as a Russian De Gaulle or F. Roosevelt, they consider the role of a Russian Hindenburg more advisable for the president. So they intend to press for the appointment of V. Zhirinovskiy to a key government post. So that the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader, while gaining the statesman's image he needs, can use his ministerial post as a springboard to vault into the presidency. However, these plans are scarcely destined to be realized so long as the LDPR's influence among the president's entourage is negligible.

At the same time it looks as though the LDPR leaders are not the only ones entertaining such thoughts. And the statement made by V. Chernomyrdin in Orenburg that no personnel changes are expected in the Russian Government in the immediate future should scarcely be regarded as pure chance.

For their part the political leaders who firmly refused to sign the treaty—primarily A. Rutskoy and G. Yavlinskiy—quite clearly gambled on a different way of coming to power. This strategy is based not on slow integration with the authorities (which, incidentally, is simply impossible for them both under the present regime), but on instant arrival in power. The hope here is presumably that there will be a sharp deterioration in the economic situation in the country and, as a consequence, that voters will turn against the entire political elite implicated in running the state.

But, as always happens with such splits, a number of political leaders are between the two camps. The most dramatic figure in this respect was G. Zyuganov, who came to the Kremlin but did not sign the treaty. Thereby demonstrating the utter contradictoriness of his position. It looks as though, as an experienced politician and a true pragmatist, the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leader realizes the need to sign the treaty but, being tightly bound by plenum decisions, he is forced to comply with party discipline. The Agrarian leader M. Lapshin looks much more prosaic against this background. He did not come to the Kremlin. The next day he took part in a press conference by the "hard-line nonsignatories"—the leaders of the "Accord for Russia" bloc. However, in the Duma corridors he immediately disowned his neighbors at the press conference and, according to information from reliable sources, will soon sign the treaty once he has obtained the requisite concessions from the government in the agrarian sphere.

Overall, analysis of the initial period of operation of the treaty on accord makes it possible to conclude that it has become yet another powerful stabilizing factor in Russian domestic political life. And in principle there are now no factors in the country capable of seriously unbalancing the situation. The main potential source of destabilization—the question of the president's health—has apparently lost its urgency. Since the conclusion of the treaty the problem of the worsening economic situation can now be resolved by civilized means, up to and including changes to the government.

The problem of crime and corruption presents a serious threat to stability. The fact that the president has signed a directive on checking the "purity of the ranks" of staffers of the top state apparatus gives grounds for assuming that the state authorities are at last launching a large-scale offensive on this "front." Which in turn makes it possible to conclude that the signing of the treaty on accord has on the whole led to a strengthening of the executive branch and of its collaboration with the legislative branch and ultimately to a strengthening of the state.

Farmers' Trade Union Not To Sign Treaty

LD0405154694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The secretariat of the central committee of workers of the agro-industrial complex, whose representatives, alongside the Federation of the Independent Trade Union and other trade unions, are to sign the treaty on civic accord, decided Wednesday not to sign the document on May 5, Interfax was told by deputy chairman of the trade union's central committee, Anatoliy Biryukov. He said that the trade union will not sign the treaty until "we see for ourselves its text with the farmers' amendment and the protocol of an agreement between the trade union and the government."

The farmers trade union uniting at present 13 million people joined the demands advanced by the Agrarian Party and the Agrarian Union to supplement the text of the draft treaty with government commitments on the creation of acceptable economic conditions for the trade union functioning, as well as to conclude an agreement with the government on the main guidelines for the agrarian policies for the next two years.

The conditions were accepted. However, no corresponding documents were received by the central committee except for media reports, said Biryukov.

The secretariat will consider without delay the documents as soon as they come and if they fully correspond to the conditions advanced by farmers, will give powers for the trade union leader to sign the document.

Accord Treaty Signing To Continue 5 May

LD0405133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS—The second stage of the signing of the Social Concord Agreement is to take place in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

This time signatures will be attached to the document by representatives from industrial, banking, and business associations. ITAR-TASS was told by Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential administration, that more than 200 public organisations have expressed their readiness to sign the document.

The Social Concord Agreement stipulates basic guarantees for social stability, the use of conciliation procedures for amending the Constitution, a commitment not to initiate political campaigns calling for preterm elections, a ban on the solution of conflicts by forcible methods. The first stage of the signing procedure took place on April 28. Signatures were then attached to the document by leaders of the executive and legislative branches of power, subjects of the Federation, representatives of political, public and religious organisations.

According to Sergey Filatov, the Social Concord Agreement "has positively influenced the general climate in our society, and has clearly revealed the urge of the Russian people for peace and tranquility". Filatov is convinced that the Social Concord Agreement will allow the nation to avoid political upheavals and to create normal conditions for the implementation of the economic reforms.

Value of Social Accord Treaty Assessed

PM0405115194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 4 May 94 p 1

[Nikolay Kishkin article under the "View on the Situation" rubric: "Path to Accord Is Not Easy, But It Must Be Pursued"]

[Text] The Treaty on Social Accord was signed at the Kremlin last Thursday. It bears the signatures of the president, the government, the chambers of the Federal Assembly, a number of parties, trade unions, public movements, and religious faiths, and the representatives of the overwhelming majority of Russian regions. How should this event be evaluated?

Here is the president's opinion: "The treaty will make it possible to unite all society around our biggest problems. We will resolve them if we are able to counter fragmentation and mutual enmity with **collaboration** based on dialogue."

And here we have a diametrically opposed assessment, that of Communist leader G. Zyuganov: The treaty "tries to preserve the misguided tenedencies which have led to the destabilization of society and state" and is an "ultimatum demanding the complete capitulation of the opposition."

What kind of document is it, then, which can produce such diametrically opposed assessments? Perhaps it proclaims objectives which do not suit Russian citizens? Let us look at what seems to be the most crucial section—the section on overcoming the socioeconomic crisis. Here the government pledges in this current year to reduce inflation; to achieve an increase in investment activity; to draft a tax blueprint which will provide incentives for the development of production; to develop the structural reorganization of the economy; to take measures to clear budgetary arrears in the payment of wages; to pursue a vigorous social policy to achieve stabilization and then raise living standards; and to draw up an employment program. None of this (if only it were actually realized) would seem to be a cause for rejection on the part of citizens. Nor are the pledges in the treaty to take measures to consolidate the economic, political, and legal area of Russia, to organize a single labor market, and ensure citizens' safety.

So what is the problem, then? Why did not all those invited to sign the treaty do so? They did not sign because to a considerable extent they expected from the treaty what it cannot provide—an accord not just on objectives but on ways of achieving them. The treaty proceeds from a different premise: Let us agree about the priority objectives and then seek the ways and means in calm, respectful dialogue rather than mounting the barricades and indulging in the mutual recriminations of which the country is tired. Such an approach has not suited everyone, albeit for different reasons. The Yabloko [Yavlinskiy Bloc] faction in the Duma, for example, considered that the objectives were formulated in such a general way that there was **nothing** on which to agree. And if the members of the faction have not gone to the barricades and nor do they intend to, so their signing it would make no sense.

It is difficult to argue here: The formulation of the objectives in the treaty is indeed very general. But the problem is that you will not be able to make them specific while those involved in the political process wield clubs and seek to bludgeon their opponents. So, like it or not, the treaty signed in the Kremlin is no more than a kind of "nonaggression pact." Its point is simple: to place common interests above group, party, departmental, and regional interests and rule out the use of force to resolve problems in society. That is to say, the accord is principally about the need for civil peace.

The treaty contains a minimum set of essential conditions in development of this. The parties to the treaty consider that only changes which will further the stabilization of the situation in society should be made to the Constitution and that the relevant proposals should be prepared via conciliation procedures. A pledge is taken not to initiate early elections to the federal organs of power. The organizers of rallies and demonstrations and the organs of power and law and order at local level assume not just legal but moral and political liability for ensuring the peaceful nature of such actions. The trade unions pledge not to carry out strikes which have no direct bearing on questions of wages, working conditions, or job retention, while state organs and entrepreneurs pledge to use conciliation procedures to settle labor conflicts and to provide trade unions with all requisite information. The parties to the treaty oppose the creation of any armed formations whatsoever by political parties, movements, or public associations.

At the moment of signing the treaty it emerged that this set of conditions does not suit certain political forces. The Communists, who aim to change completely the present socioeconomic course and want to be free of all pledges, do not agree with it. But let us note that the proposed conditions do not bind the opposition and in no way exclude the possibility of political struggle, they merely channel it within a civilized context in order to reduce tension in society. The call for peaceful means of political struggle in no way suits the sundry extreme tendencies, which can operate only when a supercharged atmosphere prevails in society. Already on May Day V. Anpilov was calling at rallies for a general political strike, inflaming his hearers with abusive criticism of the government. The National Salvation Front, headed by I. Konstantinov, seems in general to know no slogan more constructive than "Down with!"

But now is the right time to ask another question: How should we regard the treaty signed in the Kremlin, what hopes should we pin on it? First and foremost, we should **not overestimate** it, and we should not be complacent. If forces prepared to use any methods of struggle and ill-disposed toward constructive work under the present conditions of reality remain outside the treaty the danger of violence will loom over society one way or another. There will be attempts to exploit difficulties and stir up the mass of poverty-stricken people to... And yet the act of signing a treaty is, as a rule, as S. Shakhray correctly observed, "not the ceremonial outcome of the achievement of accord but the start of a long and complex search for it." From this standpoint, one has to agree with A. Sobchak when he stated that the actual fact of signing the treaty is more important than its text, as it shows society's desire for accord. And it is precisely that desire, expressed in such an authoritative form, which is to serve as the stabilizing factor. Otherwise we will not be able to overcome the crisis. In a situation where no single political force can impose its will on another, there is simply no alternative to accord because, let us repeat the words uttered in the Kremlin, "a fruitless, exhausting struggle will allow no one to work and will prevent even a single problem being solved."

Yeltsin Forms National Committee; Headed by Yarov

LD0505080594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0130 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has formed a national committee of the Russian Federation to prepare for paricipation in the world summit in the interests of social development. The Russian president's instruction notes that the national committee has been set up in connection with the UN General Assembly resolution which envisages the holding of a world meeting in Copenhagen in March 1995. Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov has been given the post of chairman of the committee. This was reported by the press service of the Russian Federation president.

Yeltsin Issues Labor Protection Edict

LD0505053994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has issued an edict relating to state supervision and monitoring of the observance of legislation on labor and labor protection. The edict is aimed at ensuring guarantees of the constitutiional right of citizens to work in conditions corresponding to the requirements of safety and hygiene.

Yeltsin Appoints Social Security Minister

LD0405144094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1343 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 4 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree appointing Lyudmila Bezlepkina as minister of social security of the Russian Federation.

Prior to this appointment, Lyudmila Bezlepkina was a first deputy minister of social security of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Aide Ilyushin Discusses Presidential Council

LD0405181594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 4 May carries the "Details" program hosted by Nikolay Svanidze. Svanidze is speaking to Viktor Vasilyevich Ilyushin, President Yeltsin's adviser, on the work of the Presidential Council—the president's personal think tank.

Ilyushin says experts for the Presidential Council are normally recruited on an ad hoc basis, usually to give expert advice on a specific problem. They are drawn from a wide range of specialists who are well-known in their field of expertise and are politically loyal to the president.

[Ilyushin] "It is assumed that even when the experts invited to discuss a certain issue have opposite points of view on a given subject, they are not in opposition to the president himself. For example, you remember there was a well-known expert on Yevgeniy Kiselev's 'Itogi' program—Yuriy Baturin. There was also Georgiy Satarov. Both of them are now the president's aides."

Ilyushin says the Presidential Council does not meet on a regular basis. "At the beginning, the question of regular meetings was raised by members of the Presidential Council. We tried to do this, but after a while, arrived at the conclusion that this is an outmoded way to work. We should meet only when the president needs our advice. One knows Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin]: If he has already decided something, it will be difficult to make him change his mind, although not always impossible."

Asked why it is so difficult for Russian journalists to get an exclusive interview with Yeltsin, whereas several were recently given to foreign media, Ilyushin says perhaps this has something to do with the president's personal preferences. Yeltsin does often answers journalists' questions nevertheless, and the recent interviews with foreign agencies were connected with the publication of Yeltsin's latest book.

Svanidze rounds up the program by saying that due to the nature of his work, Viktor Ilyushin is a man who knows a lot and says very little and this is why he has been working with and has enjoyed the confidence of the president for such a long time.

Khasbulatov Does Not Plan Return to Politics

LD0505090894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0825 GMT 5 May 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 5 May—"Rumors regarding Ruslan Khasbulatov's political activities are very much exaggerated." That is how Ruslan Khasbulatov's close relative, who wishes to remain anonymous, commented on a rumor in the press alleging that the former chairman of the Russian parliament has virtually headed the opposition in Chechnya. In a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he admitted that Ruslan Khasbulatov has frequent meetings with his compatriots, but "these meetings are always held at the request of the residents themselves and they practically do not touch on Chechnya's domestic political problems."

An ITAR-TASS correspondent did not succeed in meeting Ruslan Khasbulatov himself. The former chairman avoids journalists or answers with one and the same phrase: "I have come to Groznyy to meet relatives and have a rest."

According to information from Ruslan Khasbulatov's immediate entourage, he is preparing to resume not his political but his scientific activities.

Election Fraud Claims, Implications Viewed

PM0405145394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 May 94 p 4

[Valeriy Vyzhutovich article: "Central Electoral Commission Turning Into Political Department. This Is the Opinion of Experts With Whom Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov Resolutely Disagrees"]

[Text] **The Experts: "The Elections to the Federal Assembly Were Falsified"**

Having analyzed the official data of the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] and a number of district electoral commissions in accordance with its own statistical methods, a special expert group to study the results of elections and referendums under the President's Administration reached this conclusion: The elections to the Federal Assembly were falsified.

In the experts' estimation, approximately 3.5 million votes were falsified at the level of precinct commissions, and approximately 5.7 million at the level of district commissions.

The experts classified the forgeries in three types.

"Classic" falsifications at the level of electoral precincts: Casting of additional voting papers, administrative coercion of voters to vote for a particular candidate or for a particular list of candidates.

In the opinion of Aleksandr Sobyanin, leader of the expert group, the scale of such falsifications amounted to approximately 1.8 million voting papers in favor of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (and against the draft Constitution) and approximately 1.7 million for the Agrarian Party's candidates (and also against the draft Fundamental Law).

Falsifications of a "new type" at the level of district electoral commissions and working groups of regional administrations: Artificial overstating of the voter turnout, ascribing of an additional number of votes to particular candidates or lists of candidates.

Falsifications of this kind used to be virtually ruled out by the existence of an intermediate link—rayon, city, and rayon-within-city electoral commissions, whose data were subject to mandatory publication in the local press. The abolition of this link, recorded in the president's Statute on Elections, gave the apparatus of district commissions and local administrations the totally unconstrained freedom to "edit" reports from the precincts according to their own political taste. For example, LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] Member Sokolov won in the single-seat District No. 113 in Troitsk, Moscow Oblast, where the scientific intelligentsia predominates. Instead of Shabad, who was running there for "Russia's Choice." In a check initiated by the democratic parties' activists, it was discovered that the LDPR and "Russia's Choice" had changed places in the final table: Somebody had swapped over the lines. Well, they might have made a mistake, for this does happen. But similar "slips" with target hits were also discovered in five out of six precincts checked in Tula Oblast and in Moscow Oblast's Podolskiy, Shchelkovskiy, and Orekhovo-Zuyevskiy Districts. Every mistake was in favor of the Communists, Agrarians, Zhirinovskiyites.... As though living up to their name, the electoral commissions made very selective mistakes.

The experts believe that the LDPR received up to 6 million "extra" votes as a result of write-ups and the transposition of columns in the final returns, "Women of Russia" received approximately 1 million, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord approximately 0.5 million, and "Yabloko" roughly 0.2 million. At the same time "Russia's Choice" was approximately 2 million votes short as a result of transpositions of columns and the categorization of some of the voting papers cast for it as invalid.

Mistakes and erasures in the summing up of the data of district and precinct electoral commissions by the CEC.

The experts believe that such things were practised in the elections of Duma deputies for the federal district and in the vote on the draft Constitution. Otherwise why does the number of voters in a particular region in the CEC's final tables differ from the district commissions' data? In Krasnodar Kray, for example, this discrepancy amounted to 135,000 people. In Amur and Penza Oblasts an almost 100-percent voter turnout was recorded—unprecedented even in the times of votes for candidates of the "inviolable bloc of Communists and nonparty people." At the same time the unprecedented activeness of citizens was here combined with their high literacy: There proved to be suspiciously few spoiled voting papers.

"It need hardly be said," the experts argue, "that universal activeness combines with universal literacy only in one instance—if in electoral precincts there is mass casting [dobros] of voting papers faultlessly filled out in favor of the desired parties and candidates. It is possible to judge which parties and candidates were desired by the electoral commissions in Penza Oblast rayons from the fact that there the LDPR was supported by a 30-40-percent majority, while 'Russia's Choice' received less than 10 percent of the votes, and former Prosecutor Ilyukhin, now a member of the Communists' faction and chairman of the State Duma Security Committee, who was unknown to anyone there, got through in a single-seat district."

The experts did not risk saying that all the falsifications and forgeries were carried out deliberately. They pointed out that a great deal happened here because of unprofessionalism and the CEC's arrogant overestimation of its own technical potential: "An example of such conduct is provided by the CEC's decision itself to sum up the voting results on party lists in Russia's 95,000 electoral precincts and by the subsequent muddle connected with the huge volume of data being processed and with the existence of a large number of returns lost on the way and filled out with serious mistakes. The CEC should have at least doubled its staff in order to make more precise the data of many thousands of precinct returns filled out with mistakes."

But the following appears the most sensational discovery by Aleksandr Sobyanin and his colleagues: "In all, according to our estimates, 49 million of the 106.2 million registered voters actually participated in the 12 December vote, or 46.1 percent (instead of 58.2 million voters, or 54.8 percent according to the official data)."

These figures are political dynamite. For, if just 46.1 percent of the electorate participated in the vote, then **the Constitution was not adopted**. It turns out that the reconstructed state edifice has no foundations. The activities of the president and the government, of the Duma and the Federation Council, the edicts, directives, and decrees adopted since December—all are to be deemed invalid!

Even given the present insuperable Russian craving for everything absurd, however, people will hardly be found who are willing to restore the pre-December status quo. The intransigent opposition? It is less inclined than anyone toward a revision of the referendum results, which would promise (if everything is deemed invalid, the amnesty too) Rutskoy, Anpilov, or Konstantinov a festive return to Lefortovo. At least, not one electoral bloc and not one political party has yet attempted to dispute the CEC's official data.

But the experts continue to dispute them. They borrowed their research methods from the Italian sociologist Vilfredo Pareto. The famous Italian discovered mathematical correlations which make it possible to establish natural laws in the distribution of the number of residents in cities depending on their ordinal number on the list, the number of beasts of prey depending on their weight.... By using Pareto's charts with regard to voting results, Aleksandr Sobyanin and the Krasnoyarsk scientist Vladislav Sukhovolskiy, who helped him, discovered glaring deviations from the normal (if the elections were conducted honestly) trajectory.

Let the specialists judge how correct such research is and how convincing the conclusions from it are. It will be useful for the reader to familiarize himself also with a different viewpoint. The fact that this viewpoint is exclusively departmental does not, I believe, reduce the need to expound it but, on the contrary, only increases it.

CEC Chairman: "There Are No Grounds for Doubting the Voting Results"

Does the CEC admit the very possibility of a falsification of the voting results as a consequence of political design or because of the incompetence of the commissions' members?

"I cannot say that nothing like this happened," CEC Chairman Nikolay Ryabov answered me. "In Amur Oblast, for example, the electoral commission split up into political groupings. A falsication of the returns was recorded there. The case has gone to court."

"Is this the only court case of this kind?"

"No, 19 complaints about the actions of district electoral commissions have been examined in courts. Only five of them have been satisfied. Six complaints were lodged at the Supreme Court against the CEC, but just one has been satisfied. Thus, there are no grounds for speaking of large-scale falsifications and violations."

Nikolay Ryabov also rejected the experts' allegation about an almost 100-percent turnout at electoral precincts in Amur and Penza Oblasts. According to official data, 60 percent of the electorate voted in Amur Oblast, and 64.4 percent in Penza Oblast.

In addition, Ryabov confirmed the high competence of CEC apparatus staffers (although they were all evacuated to it from the Supreme Soviet apparatus and are not professionals in organizing and holding elections). The CEC chairman also swept aside the experts' suspicions concerning the extraordinary politicization of the new recruits who hold key posts in this department (although only quite recently CEC Secretary Ivan Galushko was an activist for the "Communists of Russia" faction, while Vladimir Okrut, CEC head of personnel, served as chief personnel manager in the Supreme Soviet and was one of those persons closest to Khasbulatov).

"These people left the Supreme Soviet apparatus along with me," Ryabov said. He too, incidentally, hastily exchanged the post of deputy speaker for that of CEC chairman. "They made their choice and left the White House before 4 October. They certainly should not be suspected of disloyalty to the president, rather the opposite...."

Answering a question about whether the experts had been carrying out anyone's political order by accusing the CEC of falsifications, Ryabov replied: "I do not want to think so. They were probably motivated by scientific ardor. They were in thrall to their own hypothesis, to prove which they scorned the obvious facts."

The "Adventure" and Its Consequences

Vasiliy Kazakov knowingly warned of the embarrassment that would inevitably result from these sudden, premature elections. Having continuously been the long-standing CEC chairman, who until the last days of his tenure of the post entrusted the counting of votes only to the beads of the office abacus or, in case of special emergency, to a calculating machine, he resolutely refused to head the new CEC, making a highly terse assessment of the short-distance (just two months) electoral race: "It is an adventure."

The flaws of the present electoral system, which endowed the CEC and its local branches with unprecedented authority and considerable powers, have a congenital origin. The Statute on Elections to the Federal Assembly and the Basic Provisions on Elections to Representative Organs of Power did not appear just at any time but at the very height of the fall political clash, when the president was looking for support wherever he might find it. In the regions above all. The reward for this support was the right granted to the governors independently to decide on the election procedure in the province—of which they are now making inventive use by returning the party and economic nomenklatura to power.

The parties were also rewarded—with a reduction in the number of signatures needed for a nomination from the 200,000 proposed by the draft's compilers to 100,000. This was why, while not having broad mass support, the contenders in the struggle for seats were essentially not political parties but, rather, departmental ones—the State Committee for Nationalities Policy (Party of Russian Unity and Accord), the agro-industrial complex (Agrarian Party), veterans' organizations and the Committee in Defense of Peace ("Dignity and Charity")....

The logical consequence of this departmental multiparty system fostered by the elections was the emergence in the Duma of such a faction as, let us say, "New Regional Policy," which represents the interests of major raw material producers, and other deputies' associations with clearly expressed lobbyist leanings.

The electoral process—it has already become continuous, like steelmaking—is now governed by CEC officials. Not by law—in view of its absence. But even the law "On Basic Guarantees of the Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation" was prepared there, deep within the CEC. Its draft, which went to the State Duma Legislation Committee, was evaluated as follows by Vladimir Tumanov, a member of this committee and an authoritative jurist: "It is a draft law not on protection for voters' rights but on the electoral commissions' protection from voters."

"Ministry of Democracy"

Observers associate the CEC's concern at the increase in its departmental weight with the figure of its chairman, above all. It is possible to guess what kind of department, which merely serves the political process rather than determining it, Ryabov will now head, after his appreciable stay in the top echelon of the Russian nomenklatura. In the Kremlin table of ranks the post of CEC chairman takes a back seat, albeit an honorable one. Therefore Ryabov will definitely do everything to return to real politics. If his ambitions are not satisfied in the very near future with an appointment to some influential post, he will evidently endeavor to enlarge the scale of his present post. But this can only be done by expanding the volume of the CEC's functions and powers.

Movement in this direction has already become apparent. Controlling the procedure, course, and, if the experts are to be believed, even the results of elections, having budget finances at its disposal, having branches in the province and a very experienced and, moreover, evidently not entirely impartial apparatus, and receiving prompt and extensive information on the electorate's mood and on the movement of the power elites, the CEC is gradually acquiring the features of an influential political department. We seem to underestimate the potential strength of this "ministry of democracy," which is able to bring to power any politician it likes through the voting booths.

Defendant in 1991 Coup Attempt Rejects Amnesty

LD0405141394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] One of the defendants in the trial of members of the 1991 abortive coup in Moscow, Valentin Varennikov, (formerly, deputy Soviet defence minister) has said he did not want the amnesty declared by parliament in February to be applied to himself. Varennikov has appealed to Russia's High Court for further hearings into his own case, his lawyer Dmitriy Shteynberg told Interfax.

Varennikov reasons that he wants those responsible for wrecking of the former Soviet Union to be found out, something that can only be done during court hearings, he believes.

Suspected Corrupt Officials Detained

LD0405133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 4 May (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service has detained officials from the law enforcement bodies suspected of corruption. ITAR-TASS has learned from well-informed sources that among those detained are a senior official of the directorate for administering punishments of the Moscow Oblast Main directorate of internal affairs, a senior officer of the investigating committee of the Russian Interior Ministry, and a Moscow lawyer.

Being "kept" by Moscow criminal groupings, by using their contacts with corrupt officials from the law enforcement bodies and by using bribes in hard currency, they secured the release of members of criminal groupings who had committed burglaries, robberies, hostage-taking, murders, and other crimes.

During the operation, illegal firearms, several hundred thousand U.S. dollars, gold, and precious stones were confiscated from the suspects.

The criminal case involving the individuals is being investigated by the Russian General Procuracy.

Authorities' Ambivalence Toward Press Criticized

MK0405102094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No.18, 1-8 May 94 (Signed to press 3 May) p A5

[Editor-in-Chief Viktor Loshak commentary under the "In the Country" rubric: "Please, Do Not Hang Up"]

[Text] The Russian press received numerous presents on the old and new Press Days—3 and 5 May. From the presidential staff—journalists were thrown out of the Press House for the second time in six months. From the parliament—the State Duma enacted and passed to the Federation Council for approval the Law on the Procedure for Coverage of Government Authorities by State-Owned Mass Media. This is a document unheard of in the democratic world, which, for instance, specifies to the second how much time news programs must devote to the titanic work of our deputies.

The prime minister alone tried to listen to the journalists on the eve of the holidays. Viktor Chernomyrdin received representatives of the regional press and promised them that a new law would be passed. It seems that tax pressure on the press may be eased somewhat, if not removed altogether.

Evidently, the top authorities develop various relations with the press. Sometimes it seems that all of us—newspapers, magazines, radio, and television—are connected with the authority by two tubes from a schoolbook of mathematical problems. The first one sucks in all our rhetorical or non-rhetorical questions, "constructive proposals" and "separate observations," journalistic investigations and readers' letters... All this is digested somewhere up there, high in the clouds, and the second tube gives us—on extremely rare occasions—the feedback of answers and summaries. The farther we explore the path of pursuing a new happiness, the more the answers have nothing to do with the questions. The newspapers have been given a chance to feel themselves promising singers at a concert for deaf mutes.

"Sirs," NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA cries, "what have you done to customs duties? In this country, owing to benefits granted by top officials, billions of dollars flow past the treasury."

Silence.

SEGODNYA writes about a first deputy prime minister who has on the sly become a shareholder in Russia's greatest tin combine. Isn't this why tin export rules have recently been eased? Who has pushed this privilege through?

Silence.

How could the publication of a magazine romanticizing mercenaries and advertising the tools of murder—brass knuckles, knives, guns, and automatic rifles—be allowed in a criminal country girdled with wars?—MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI asked the Press Committee.

Silence.

Why talk about others, if the most influential newspaper, IZVESTIYA, has been fighting for many months now a bus turned into a canteen, which was placed by someone and at God knows whose authorization in front of its building. It seems that it was easier for IZVESTIYA to gain the upper hand over Khasbulatov.

Of course, what is written in a newspaper or pronounced from the television screen will shape the public opinion even without answers. When they embark on a journey to authority, however, they all pledge to be in a dialogue with society. But a traditional dialogue between a consumer and a monopolist has always been the same in this country regardless of whether it is a political or economic monopoly. "Why is it that our telephone communications are so bad?" the consumer asks. "Why is it impossible to phone to foreign countries?" "We will double telephone tariffs on the first day of the month," the Communications Ministry responds.

The simple truth that relations with the mass media largely shape the public view on authority sometimes seems to be beyond the grasp of our state's top officials. Yet another herd of bureaucrats replaces journalists at the House of the Russian Press. Children were the first to give up—GLAGOL, a newspaper independent of adults, has closed. With an openness typical of their age, the teenagers wrote at parting: "After the authority touched the Russian Press House for the first time, we splashed the front-page heading 'The USSR—a Country of Assholes.' After it did it a second time, the authority appeared to me as a self-satisfied pig that has reached a trough and imagined itself to be the most clever and powerful."

The newspaper that has been thrown out has already received an offer of assistance. From the president? No, from a candidate for president, Zhirinovskiy, and his party. This is how allies can be lost and how they can be found.

As a matter of fact, Yeltsin has once again lost to Chernomyrdin in a monthly popularity rating, an event that, by a strange happenstance, took place exactly when the former threw journalists out of their house and the latter met with newsmen.

There is no denying that any authority tries to domesticate the press. As a rule, it is those who communicate with the voters and taxpayers constantly and as openly as possible that manage to achieve this objective. Here, too, our situation is unique: the country sees newspaper publications going unanswered whereas at the same time at the political backyard the authorities are feeding the press from hand with bits of the budget pie, large and small. Even now they prefer not to make public the amounts of subsidies. Indeed, there is something to hide. The circle is going to be closed: the authority will hide from the newspapers its stance on their publications, and the newspapers will keep silent about who has taken how much from the authority.

In a word, please, do not hang up.

Economic Issues

Fourth Block of Kolskiy Nuclear Power Station Closed

LD0405192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Today at 12:00 pm the fourth reactor of the Kolskiy Nuclear Power Station was closed down due to a technical fault in the security system. Currently, the energy block is functioning at one percent of capacity. However, the fourth block can be repaired only after the third one, which stopped at the end of 1993, renews its work. The first and the second blocks were temporarily closed down about four months ago.

A working commission has been set up on the Kolskiy Nuclear Power Station. It is expected to give an expert evaluation of the condition of the reactor which is out of order, an Interfax correspondent learned.

Experts Propose New Program To Settle Debt Crisis

LD0405111294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 4 ITAR-TASS—Experts from the Russian Machine-Building Committee proposed a programme to overcome the non- payment crisis in the domestic industry. After a working group, including representatives from the economy and finance ministries, the Central Bank and other organisations, considers the programme, it will be submitted to the government.

The programme's main provisions include state regulation of credit emission, control over cash and non-cash circulation, writing off enterprises' mutual debts, and determining enterprises' financial needs.

The experts believe that the non-payment problem can not be settled without anti-inflation measures, that is state regulation of prices for raw materials, fuel, transport services and foodstuffs. The experts welcome even caps on prices and wages.

Defense Industry Workers Seek Soskovets Meeting

LD0405140994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Representatives of the defense-related plants which are on a standby for a strike after two days of picketing of the Government House in Moscow at the end of April are pressing for a meeting with First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, Aleksandr Ilyin of the industrial trade unions told Interfax.

In his words, First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin in a telephone conversation with union leader Sergey Shuklin had said that a solution to the industry's problems rested with the Prime Minister or his First Deputy.

Defense industry workers are pressing the government for clearing its debt of more than 170 billion rubles and resolving the problem of non-payments as well as pressing for tax cuts.

Ilyin said that most of the industry's workforce had to go on forced leave from May 1. He spoke of stoppages being announced until May 11 at nine of ten plants in the Vladimir Region and seven out of eight plants in Nizhnyy Novgorod Region. Similar plants in Chapayevsk (Samara region) will not resume work until May 15.

Causes of Inflation Analyzed, Ways Out Pondered

PM0505102594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Dubovskiy of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Systemic Analysis: "State Ensnared by Post-Shock Inflation"—from the FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA section]

[Text] The government intends to lower the rate of price increases from 20-25 percent per month to 8-9 percent per month by the end of the year. Erstwhile ministers now in opposition are casting doubt over the realism of these intentions. What, then, are the real opportunities and reserves for cutting inflation?

The January 1992 price leap not only brought the economic system to the point of equilibrium between supply and demand but, at the same time as destroying the population's savings, it destroyed enterprises' circulating capital. The tax base narrowed as the economy went into decline, and tax receipts declined. At the same time, the government switched part of the state's traditional revenue away from the banking system and foreign trade into private structures—commercial banks and export-import firms.

After losing tax receipts and giving up revenue, the state encountered an excess of expenditure over revenue, in other words a state budget deficit which had to be covered with the help of emissions. Owing to a lack of circulating capital, enterprises could not pay each other for supplies, and thus mutual offsetting of non-payments had to be implemented and compensatory credits issued. This also required the issue of additional means of payment.

Following the organization of the ruble zone, over a dozen central banks began to compete in issuing completely unsecured monies. Thus began the post-shock inflation which has persisted for over two years. Why has it proved so stubborn?

The fact is that the amount of money in circulation and prices are rising faster than enterprises' circulating capital, for which reason the slump in production is continuing at a rate of 18-20 percent per year. Accordingly, actual tax receipts into the budget are falling, and the budget deficit is again making it necessary to print "superfluous" money. The economy has fallen into the trap of stubborn post-shock inflation and decline.

Calculations indicate that the complete abolition of compensatory credits will cut inflation to 10 percent per month, but this will prompt a wholesale slump in production of over 30 percent a year. And if enterprises are compensated in full for inflation, then the economic slump will halt, but rates of inflation will rise to 50 percent per month.

It is impossible to stay in such a position for long, insofar as the tactics of taking the middle course merely postpone the moment of the onset of an uncontrollable economic slump.

One such method is based on the use of an abnormally large foreign trade surplus—that is, the excess of Russia's exports over its imports. In 1992, this surplus comprised roughly one-third of GDP, while in 1993 it was approximately one-fourth.

This enormous, nonreturnable export of Russia's resources derives from two streams—aid donated to former USSR republics and the flight of foreign capital to foreign commercial banks. It is essential to find acceptable methods for halting these streams, which are bleeding the country of material resources, and the Central Bank of inflationary streams of money.

In the second half of 1993, a portion of the steps in this direction had already been taken. The ruble zone was demolished; donated aid to the republics had stopped in part; and a modicum of control, albeit weak but control nevertheless, had been introduced over currency exporters. This allowed the country to stay afloat despite the unprecedented economic slump. However, the flight of capital continues pretty much at the former level. And tax reforms, which could close the way to outward-bound streams and remove the pressure from commodity producers, is slowing down.

Unless the chance given to Viktor Chernomyrdin's government is exploited, then like it or not the country will be left with just one more option—to introduce an economic state of emergency, to freeze wages and prices, and to return for a while to state regulation—in other words to go back to where it was in December 1991, only this time with a semi-destroyed economy.

Military & Space Issues

SS-25 To Be 'Missile of the 21st Century'

PM0505080594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1305 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Military Courier"" program: Video report by Viktor Tkachenko, Gennadiy Makarychev, and Nikolay Zhukov, identified by caption]

[Text] [Tkachenko over aerial view of truck-mounted SS-25 missiles on the move] The Strategic Missile Forces are Russia's main deterrent. In accordance with Army reform, they will be allowed to comprise only 1,300 lauchers, all with single warheads, by the year 2005. At present fourth-generation strategic missiles are used for alert duty in the Russian Army. Will there be fifth-generation missiles? What will the missile of the 21st century be like?

Our country's military scientists have carried out a study of possible scenarios of strategic nuclear forces' operations and came to the conclusion that the missile of the 21st century will be the RS-12M Topol ballistic missile, or SS-25 as it is known in the West. It is produced in Votkinsk [Udmurtia]. The autonomous launcher weighs 80 tonnes, the weight of the nose section is one tonne. The Topol has been used for alert duty since 1985.

[Yu. Fedin, commander of autonomous launch installation, identified by caption, against the backdrop of an SS-25 missile] Tests of this hardware have been carried out. I have been involved in testing this hardware since 1983. It is very, very reliable.

[Krondo] Since 1984 600 combat training launches have been carried out at the Plesetsk test range. In recent years tests have become much more infrequent in the absence of funds.

[A. Polukhin, deputy commander of the division's duty forces, identified by caption] It hurts, of course. Elsewhere people are working flat out, so to speak, and they are being fully funded. Meanwhile we have been put on starvation rations. There is no doubt about it, it hurts.

[Krondo] How will this reflect on Russia's combat readiness?

[Polukhin] Very badly, there is no other way.

[Krondo] Since Russia and its allies in the CIS have always had and always will have their own regional and global interests to look after, only the nuclear missile status can ensure the Russian Federation equitable participation in the solution of worldwide and regional problems. [video shows SS-25 missiles from various angles, computer graphics, interviews, brief glimpse of Plesetsk test range, computer center]

New Orbiting Station Said To Be 'State Secret'

LD0505103694

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 0800 GMT on 5 May broadcasts a 1-minute report by correspondent Aleksey Deryabin on a new orbital space station. Deryabin begins his report by noting that a group of scientists from the central specialized design center and from the Progress works in Samara have been awarded Russian state prizes for creating a unique space station which, he says, is a state secret. "The new satellite is a state secret and we are unable to show you even a mock-up of it. Let us just say," he goes on, "that the wide-angle photographic equipment installed on board makes it possible to carry out observations of the Earth's surface with maximal precision. Designers joke that they will even be able to spot a matchbox," Deryabin says, adding that 150 discoveries and inventions were registered in the course of the design work.

Deryabin then interviews V.M. Saygak, deputy chief designer of the central specialized design center, who says that the Russian Space Agency has now instructed the center to "conclude a contract to make use of this complex facility to serve the needs of the national economy."

Deryabin concludes his report by saying that the facility is capable of cultivating crystals of especial purity while in orbit. The crystals could then be regularly delivered to Earth without any intervention by man. The video shows the design center and mockups of some equipment.

Atomic Weapons Museum Shows 'Original' Hydrogen Bomb

LD0405211594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1920 GMT on 4 May carries a video report by L. Shesterkina on the atomic weapons museum at (Snezhensk), formerly known as Chelyabinsk 70. The museum shows "the most powerful air-delivered hydrogen bomb in the world" which is, Shesterkina stresses, the original weapon, and not a model. Parts of decommissioned ballistic missiles and explosive devices for civilian purposes are also shown.

Air Force Command, Staff Exercises Featured

PM0405160994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1305 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Military Courier" program: Video report by Igor Krondo and Gennadiy Makarychev, identified by caption, from Zapad-94 Air Force exercises]

[Text] [Krondo over video of screen reading "Zapad" Information System and military control room] In accordance with the plan for operational training, Zapad-94 [West-94] command and staff exercises have been held in the Russian Air Force. During the exercises Air Force command and control, the formation of Air Force groupings in areas under threat, and combat operations to thwart an enemy invasion by air were rehearsed.

In addition to staff command and control organs, combat aircraft were also involved in the exercises. Long-range Tu-22 MZ [as heard] carried out combat training launches of cruise missiles against ground targets. Both crews gained excellent ratings. [video shows taxiing aircraft, pilot in cockpit]

At the same time, Tu-95 MS strategic bombers, after aerial refueling [video shows aircraft refueling], flew to the naval range and carried out a strike against an aircraft carrier and escort ships of the nominal enemy.

The Tu-160 carried out tactical launches of missiles.

Su-27 fighter-interceptors provided air cover for the bomber aircraft. Su-24 and Su-25 frontal bombers delivered strikes against the air defense facilities, airfields, and reserves of the nominal enemy. MiG-29 fighters provided air cover for our troops and ground facilities. Essentially, these exercises were the culmination of the winter training period. They have shown that, despite everything, the Air Force is in a state of constant combat readiness and capable of implementing the tasks for which it is designated. [video shows control room, maps, aircraft in action and refueling]

Air Force Commander Deynekin Interviewed

PM0505091994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Aviation Colonel General Petr Stepanovich Deynekin, commander in chief of the Air Force, by Gennadiy Lisankov; date, place not given: "Aircraft First"]

[Text] In our country military airmen are most often mentioned in connection with emergencies on land or in the sky? But what about the ordinary days? What problems does Russia's air force resolve every day? That is the subject of journalist Gennadiy Lisankov's talk with Aviation Colonel General Petr Stepanovich Deynekin, commander in chief of the Air Force.

[Lisankov] What is the most important thing in the Air Force's development at the present stage? How is its structure being coordinated with Russia's defensive military doctrine?

[Deynekin] On the basis of the air force formations inherited from the former Union an essentially new, highly maneuverable branch of the armed forces is being created. A balanced personnel, the existence of modern aviation equipment and arms, the ability effectively to resolve the entire complex of tasks in joint or independent operations, minimal expenditure on maintenance—those are just a few of the most important criteria for the development of the Russian Air Force.

An important avenue of our work is the qualitative improvement of the Air Force by reequipping the formations and units with new multipurpose complexes with high-precision all-weather weapons.

[Lisankov] Petr Stepanovich, from which CIS states will student pilots be studying in Russian air force schools? How is cooperation with NATO countries developing?

[Deynekin] Under agreements servicemen from Armenia, Belorussia [Belarus], and Kazakhstan are studying at our air force higher education establishments. It is planned to admit student pilots from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan]. We are prepared to collaborate in the development of national air forces and in other directions.

As for cooperation with the NATO countries these questions are at the development stage. We are receiving proposals on the mutual exchange of aviation specialists for study and industrial training. We are studying them attentively and where possible we are making contacts. Last year a number of student pilots from the Kacha pilots' school underwent training in France while French students trained at the Kacha school. The result satisfied both sides.

Direct context when training air force cadres make it possible to understand each other better and to reduce tension in resolving military issues. Nor should we forget the material advantages, that is the money which will go to develop the air force's training and material-technical base and the solution of social problems.

[Lisankov] Is it true that the Air Force's purchase of MiG-29 and Su-27 type aircraft is not planned because of the lack of funds?

[Deynekin] The Air Force has indeed stopped the purchase of aircraft of the Mig-29 and Su-27 type but not because of budget restrictions. The reason is simple: The plan to rearm the fighter aircraft has been fulfilled. As Russia's economic situation stabilizes we plan to increase the pace of the air force's reequipping with equipment and arms of a new generation.

[Lisankov] What is the fate of the strategic bombers in the former union republics, in particular Ukraine and Kazakhstan?

[Deynekin] The armed forces of the republics of nearby foreign parts lack structures capable of ensuring the safe storage of nuclear warheads and the good repair of strategic aircraft. As a military specialist I am convinced that apart from Russia no armed forces of the CIS countries can ensure the good repair of the aircraft component of the strategic nuclear forces since that requires very great material expenditure, the highest qualifications for the servicing personnel, and aid from design bureaus and manufacturing plants.

In Kazakhstan there were 40 Tu-95 MS aircraft. In accordance with the commitments adopted by Russia as the heir to the Union with regard to the strategic forces they were withdrawn to Russia. The four last aircraft were withdrawn 19 February. The moving of the heavy bombers, as it is customary to call them under the treaty, although they are in fact strategic missile-carrying aircraft, from the territory of Kazakhstan to Russia does not contradict the provision of the START I Treaty since it is being carried out within the national territory of the former Soviet Union.

Aircraft from the air force nuclear forces remained in Ukraine: There are 23 Tu-95 MS bombers at the Uzin airfield near Kiev and 19 Tu-160 aircraft at the Priluki airfield, Chernigov Oblast. Of these 42 strategic aircraft only a few can take off because the repair stocks have been exhausted in the Ukrainian Air Force line units.

Talks are under way with the Ukrainian Government on the withdrawal of this grouping of strategic aircraft to Russian territory. But so far we are failing to find mutual understanding.

[Lisankov] Petr Stepanovich, you are a combat pilot. What aircraft have you flown in your time in service?

[Deynekin] I have flown a Tu-16 and been in command of a regiment on these aircraft. The forces were cut back yet again—this was in the early sixties—and I became a civilian pilot. When I returned to the Armed Forces I mastered the Tu-22M, the renowned "Backfire," the first supersonic long-range combat jet bomber with variable wing geometry.

Then I studied at the General Staff Academy and after graduating I was commander and instructor pilot of a Tu-95 strategic combat jet. Later I mastered the Tu-160 strategic jet aircraft. In this period I commanded first an air army and then strategic aviation.

In May 1992 in America I made three flights on the U.S. Air Force's Bi-B strategic bomber with in-flight refueling from a KC-135 stratotanker.

When I was already commander in chief I flew a "Tucano" in Brazil and a "Jaguar" in India. The latest Russian aircraft I have mastered include the Su-25, Su-27, Mig-29, and Mig-31.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to say this. We have spoken of military aviation's present but we must not forget the glorious past of the Air Force and its history and traditions. Without the past there is no future. In the Russian Air Force now there are six twice Heroes of the Soviet Union, 15 Heroes of the Soviet Union, and three Heroes of the Russian Federation. And I bow low to our frontline veterans. The forthcoming victory holiday is particularly dear to me—both as commander in chief and as the son of an Air Force office who died in 1943....

Border Guard Training Center Attacked

LD0405140594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Makhachkala May 4 TASS—A group of armed extremists attacked a training centre of the Russian border troops in Makhachkala, capital of Daghestan [Dagestan], last night.

The attackers armed with firearms penetrated the territory of the centre, but were seized by its guards. They were then handed over to the local law enforcement bodies.

The press centre of the Russian border troops told ITAR-TASS that this is not the first such case in Daghestan where the Russian border is now being established.

CIS Military Official Seriously Injured

LD0405130994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Gorelova]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS—Chief of staff for military cooperation between CIS member-states, Viktor Samsonov, 53, was seriously injured in a traffic accident late on May 2, ITAR-TASS learned from the press service of the traffic police.

The accident occurred within the distance of one kilometer as Samsonov's car "Volga" with his family entered the Ilyinsk highway, returning from Barvikha in the Moscow countryside.

A woman-driver in the oncoming Zhiguli car failed to keep the wheel, drove into the opposite side of the highway for the oncoming traffic and the Zhiguli collided with Samsonov's car. As a result of the collision Samsonov received numerous injuries and bone fractures, his wife was badly injured in the face and his son, a student of the Suvorov Military School, had a concussion and his nose broken.

The woman-driver responsible for the accident was taken to hospital, suffering from numerous bone fractures, and her companion riding in the same car was instantly killed.

Federal Assembly

Committee Chief on Duma's Present, Future Role

MK0405120794 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 17, 4-10 May 94 (Signed to press 3 May) p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Bauer, chairman of the Duma Organizing Committee, by Yuriy Serov: "On 11 May the Duma Will Sit in a New Building"—place, date not given]

[Text] [Serov] Vladimir Anatolyevich, what does your committee engage in?

[Bauer] The Duma is not an industrial enterprise and the Duma chairman is not an enterprise director. It is not only inconvenient but partly unethical to engage in organizational and economic matters. The committee created specially for these purposes and consisting of deputies from various factions is another matter. It is quite able to assess objectively the professionalism of key officials in the State Duma apparatus. The committee is working out proposals on standing orders and the law on the status of deputies.

[Serov] Nonetheless, the media criticize the State Duma: Too many of the public funds go to maintain it and the people's choices have great appetites....

[Bauer] There is a government decree signed by Chernomyrdin a few days ago that says in black and white: To ensure within 10 days the movement of the State Duma without renovating the building. This will allow us to sue those who are distorting the truth in print. I think that such articles are inspired by people who are not very happy with the fact that the Duma will occupy the building at Okhotnyy Ryad, 1. As for perks and benefits, whether we want this or not, in mass consciousness the State Duma is the legal successor to the former Supreme Soviet. The shadow of the former confrontation between the "power branches" is falling on the Duma, as it were, with all the ensuing consequences: talk about perks, and so forth. State Duma deputies have none. Moreover, the conditions in which the deputies have to work are humiliating.

[Serov] When will the movement take place?

[Bauer] On 11 May we are planning to hold a plenary session in the new location. The movement will apparently be complete by the end of May.

[Serov] How long will it take the Duma to readjust?

[Bauer] As is known, one relocation is equal to two fires. I suppose several months will pass before everything gets back to normal. Work efficiency is bound to rise, although the building on Okhotnyy Ryad is certainly not the Parliament Center or the White House. The compound on Okhotnyy Ryad is a ministerial complex built in the thirties. The fact that the Duma has acquired a place of its own is an indisputable success of parliamentarianism in Russia.

[Serov] Many deputies believe that the State Duma apparatus is pulling—and quite successfully—the blanket of power over itself. Has the Duma acquired financial independence?

[Bauer] We are still financed from presidential administration accounts: We have no account of our own and no legal entity status in spending. This surely complicates the solution of certain questions. But I think that soon the situation will change. As for relations with the apparatus, this must be clear: The apparatus exists for the deputies, not the deputies for the apparatus. The apparatus and the deputies are two parallel worlds, but the danger that the apparatus will pull the blanket of power over itself does exist. Our committee guards the deputies' interests. We confirm appointments to all key posts in the apparatus. Normative documents also pass through the committee. We see to it that the deputies' interests are not infringed.

Our committee seeks to unite the efforts of the deputies and the apparatus for the good of the common cause.

[Serov] What is the committee doing at present in the legislative sphere?

[Bauer] In addition to what I have already mentioned, it participates in working on the budget and the pension law. There are lawyers in the committee who are preparing amendments to the Criminal Code and the law on corruption. We intend to devote the next few months to organizing the State Duma's activity and helping accommodate the deputies in a new place.

[Serov] How do you see the future of the State Duma?

[Bauer] The level of the new deputy corps is relatively high. Former deputies were elected to the Supreme Soviet primarily riding a tide of populism. As a matter of fact, some former deputies too have entered the Duma. However we might treat them, this ensures a certain level of continuity. I dare say that party affiliation as an element of the Duma's internal organization is a factor enhancing the State Duma's effectiveness. Yes, sometimes one bill or another may be voted down thanks to a consolidated discipline. But if there is an agreement at the level of factions, laws tend to be adopted. Let us take, for instance, the election of committees and commissions. Within half a day the Duma has done what took the Supreme Soviet several months to accomplish. The Duma is a fairly hard-working body. This may sound paradoxical, but the State Duma is more inclined to cooperate with the president and the government than the Federation Council. (A different point of view is in Vladimir Shumeyko article, ROSSIYA, No. 16—Yu. S.). Once the consideration of the budget begins, they will immediately start lobbying, pursuing their own, utterly parochial interests. There is nothing of the kind in the Duma. As for my opinion on the document about accord, I think that it is the State Duma elected by the people that should be the guarantor of its implementation. The president should put up with it, come closer to the Duma, and recognize its rights. Then laws passing through the State Duma will acquire the nature of national accord. At the same time, personally I am dissatisfied with the lack of provisions in the document specifying the responsibility of the central authorities for their adherence or failure to adhere to the principles of national accord.

Federation Council Rejects Government Farm Program

PM0505093394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 May 94 Evening Edition p 1

["Own Information" report: "Once Again We Have No Program for the Sowing"]

[Text] The other day the Federation Council rejected the version of the program for agrarian reform in Russia proposed by the government.

The parliamentary decree recognizes that the government decisions and presidential edicts according to which the agrarian reform is being carried out "are often contradictory and sometimes simply wrong." As a result of the economic policy of the last three years "the country's agro-industrial complex is in the grip of an extremely grave crisis."

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences were instructed to carry out additional work on the program within one month, placing the emphasis on specific protectionist measures for the agro-industrial complex. But that will either happen or not. As yet one thing is certain: Peasants will not learn before the end of the sowing campaign what kind of policy they can expect from their state in the fall.

Regional Affairs

No. Ossetian Leader on Ingushetia Talks

LD0405131794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 4 TASS—"The provisions of the social concord agreement, signed in the Kremlin on April 28, must serve as guidelines for talks between the presidents and official delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia," North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov said here today, addressing leaders of North Ossetian art unions, rectors of higher educational establishments, and representatives of the republic's national cultural centres.

The North Ossetian leader went on record for the continuation of the dialogue with the Ingush side, but bluntly rejected the idea of a moratorium on border changes. In his opinion, it is necessary to completely delete from the agenda the question of recarving the borders of the North Caucasian area, because this may provoke a new tragedy in the region.

The North Ossetian president dwelt at length on the forthcoming celebration of the 220th anniversary of Ossetia's accession to Russia and the 210th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Vladikavkaz. The jubilee celebrations, devoted to these dates, will be held from October 7 to October 15. Galazov said that these dates "have not lost their importance at all, but are assuming a new historical meaning in the light of modern political problems".

Khasbulatov Meets With Chechnya's Villagers

LD0405120194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] "Ordinary people have always and everywhere understood me," announced former head of the RF Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov during his meeting with residents of the Chechen village of Alkhan-Kala situated ten kilometers from Groznyy.

As our Interfax correspondent reports, thousands of citizens from nearby villages, elders, leaders of the clergy and local councils attended. Amateur artists performed at the meeting.

Khasbulatov expressed his recognition for the support both to the village residents and citizens of Chechnya and Russia.

Khasbulatov received a gun and Astrakhan sheep-skin hat, a papakha, from the village residents.

The day before one of the streets in the village of Alkhan-Kala was called Imran, the name of Khasbulatov's father. Leaders of the local council explained to our Interfax correspondent that from 1934-37 Imran Khasbulatov headed the local collective farm.

Due to the growth of Khasbulatov's popularity in Chechnya, observers do not rule out the possibility that he could head the forces in opposition to President Johar Dudayev. In particular, the present leaders of the opposition welcomed the return of the ex-speaker of the Russian parliament to his homeland as they connect their hopes for political changes in the republic with his name.

Illegal Arms Seizures Increase Sharply in Tula

PM0405114194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 May 94 p 1

[Arnold Pushkar report: "Arms Dealers Caught in Tula Militia's Nets"]

[Text] Tula—Staffers of the Tula Internal Affairs Administration's Administration for Combating Organized Crime have detained an inhabitant of one of the Baltic countries who brought 20 "TT" pistols to Tula for sale.

As V. Podolskiy, chief of the Administration for Combating Organized Crime, reported, the majority of arms on sale are produced in local plants, though some are imported. Over the four months of this year more arms have been confiscated than during the whole of last year.

Krasnodar Imposes 'Severe' Immigration Restrictions

PM0405120794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 May 94 p 1

[Andrey Aderekhin report: "Better Not To Travel to the Kuban Without Invitation Now"]

[Text] Krasnodar Kray—The Krasnodar Kray Administration has adopted a series of documents imposing severe restrictions on opportunities for newcomers to obtain permanent residence permits, as well as on temporary stays in the Kuban for foreign citizens and persons without citizenship. These restrictions do not affect Russians.

According to some estimates there are now about 600,000 immigrants in the Kuban—mainly from interethnic conflict zones. Only a fraction of them are registered in the kray and have residence permits. The kray administration head's decree says that the multinational stream of immigrants is posing a serious threat to social and political stability.

This new state of affairs significantly restricts the categories of people who can obtain the right to permanent residence. For example, Krasnodar Kray Immigration Service is being instructed to grant the status of refugee or enforced migrant only to those who have close relatives in the Kuban who have already been living here more than five years. These same persons can register as residents of Sochi only in exceptional circumstances.

Citizens from the former USSR and persons without citizenship now must have invitations, which are officially registered by the organs of local self-government, in order to enter the kray on a temporary basis. Moreover, they have to apply to the internal affairs organs within 24 hours of their arrival for registration. A one-shot fee of 20 percent of the minimum monthly wage has been imposed for the invitations' official registration. Those who are involved in entrepreneurial or other profit-making activities will have to pay the same amount, but in their case it will be payable for each day they spend in the Kuban. People visiting close relatives, invalids, students, entertainers, workers on tours of duty, and several other categories of arrivals are exempt from the registration fee.

The Caucasus Special Border District's "Krasnodar" operations section of troops has been advised to hand over those who arrive in the Kuban without invitations drawn up in the prescribed manner to the Federal Counterintelligence Service or representatives of the internal affairs organs in the location where they were allowed to cross the Russian Federation state border.

True, a blunder has been made. The administration head's decree mentions that the decree will come into force the moment it is published. However, a large number of the kray's inhabitants who are awaiting guests from the former USSR have only just found out about the necessity for them to have an officially registered invitation for a temporary visit.

Kaliningrad Duma Inaugurates Work, Elects Speaker

WS0405140794 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by N. Borovskaya: "Speaker Was Elected on the First Day"]

[Text] The Kaliningrad Oblast Duma began its work on 26 April. The agenda prepared by the organizing committee included 16 issues. Naturally, deputies were unable to cope with such a number of topics in just one day, all the more so since a portion of the first session was devoted to representative issues. Members of political parties and civil movements welcomed the representative body and expressed their expectations toward it.

Later, deputies arrived in the suite on 17 Kirov Street—which had been previously allotted to them—to begin their work. Gennadiy Batutin, the oldest deputy of the Duma, was elected the chairman of the first session. Deputy Danuta Smirnova was elected his deputy. Yuriy Matochkin, head of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration, addressed the Oblast Duma.

During the first day, deputies managed to form working bodies and approve the statute of the first session. The most urgent question—who would become the Duma speaker and deputy speaker—was resolved within five hours. In the course of several rounds of voting and numerous consultations, Valeriy Nikolayevich Ustyugov, head of the Baltiysk Rayon Administration, was elected Duma speaker by a margin of 17 votes. Yuriy Nikolayevich Semenov was elected deputy speaker (13 votes cast in favor, 6 against, and one invalid).

We will provide more details on this fascinating story, as well as on the entire session that lasted two days, in the following issues of our newspaper.

Japanese, Khabarovsk Military Officials Meet

OW0405144194 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0845 GMT 4 May

[From the "Kray News" program]

[Text] Colonel (Goto), military attache at the Japanese Consulate General in Moscow, visited Khabarovsk where he held discussions with Major General Valeriy (Nidenko), first deputy chief of staff of the Far East Military District, before departing for home on completion of his tour in Russia. Goto expressed his opinion that Japan is ready to establish contacts with the Russian military with the aim of strengthening mutual trust. Both sides came to the conclusion that similar meetings help to strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between the neighboring countries. Deputy Consul General Watanabe and Attache (Kabayatsu), both from the Japanese Consulate General in Khabarovsk, as well as other officials took part in the discussions.

Stepashin Attends Talks on Dagestan-Azerbaijan Border

LD0405145094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Dagestan Government held a conference today on problems of the Dagestan-Azerbaijan border. The conference was attended by a delegation which arrived in Makhachkala from Moscow, led by Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service. ITAR-TASS reports that the conference discussed proposals related to the problem of the Lezghi people divided by the border. Specifically, proposals were voiced to make it more open by increasing the number of checkpoints.

At the same time, Sergey Stepashin stressed, the border should be strong and reliably protected against weapons, drugs, and criminals getting into Russia, as well as against economic damage being done to Russia.

Volost Revived as Local Administrative Unit

PM0405161994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 May 94 p 2

[Mikhail Ovcharov reportage: "Volost Resurrected in Yaroslav Rural Areas"]

[Text] Yaroslavl—The administration of the first Volost in today's Russia—Borovskaya Volost—which has been resurrected within its former, prerevolutionary borders and embraces the territories of three former rural administrations and one settlement administration in Nekrasovskiy Rayon, has begun work in Yaroslavl Oblast. When you hear for the first time the word "volost," which is known only from books, doubt involuntarily sets in: Why is such a reorganization necessary? Is it a just a change of nameplate? A fad?

I Want Very Much To Be an Official

In reply to my questions, Nikolay Anikanov, administration head in Nekrasovskiy Rayon, where these events are currently taking place, and architect of the volost's resurrection in rural areas, objected strongly: No, there can be no question of any fad. Government by the volost represents a completely self-financing self-governing rural territory with its own budget and bank account. In the final analysis, it represents a reduction in the army of officials in rural areas.

Anikanov considers that the system of government in the rural areas—whether in the form of rural soviets or the rural administration—has discredited itself once and for all and become obsolete. Take note of the fact that in each rural administration (and this is usually the territory of a kolkhoz or sovkhoz) there are up to 10 officials. The wages of each is sometimes five times higher than that of a machine operator or a milkmaid.

The rural administration's second problem is that it lacks its own budget. Its head has no interest at all in collecting taxes because he knows: These taxes will just the same leave the area and end up in the rayon, oblast, or republic budget, and after that it will be necessary to beg for pennies from the rayon or oblast, like alms in the church porch, in order to repair a well in disrepair or to take firewood for the winter to an old lady living on her own.

The Elder Will Judge Your Case

We took great pains to break this system and to make the territory self-financing for the first time, Anikanov continued. That is, it is a question of the authorities having a vital interest in the development on their territory of diverse industrial and agricultural production facilities from which taxes will accumulate in the local budget.

But there is also a second issue. That of actually implementing local self-government and not just talking about it. A law on this has, as we know, been adopted, but it is not working as there are no corresponding power structures. This is why, having set a course to resurrect volost power, we began this process from the bottom and not from the top, electing at village assemblies in the rayon elders to represent about 300 inhabitants each. What is more they have very wide-ranging rights. I consider the village elder, Anikanov says, to be at one time deputy to the volost head, judge, and land-surveyor who can sternly make whomsoever he sees fit answer for disturbing the public order, distribute hayfields, and pass judgments on squabbling neighbors in his role as justice of the peace.

Own Bank Account

I came across the first volost head in post-communist Russia in the government premises temporarily housed in the former Krasnoprofinternovskiy settlement administration building. The Russian tricolor is already fluttering above the government premises, though there is no new nameplate yet. Aleksey Andreyev, 47, is impatiently waiting for a tractor and trailer from the rayon which he has been promised and which will plow pensioners' truck gardens and transport firewood. Borovskaya Volost has already opened an account at the bank. The first autonomous budget for this year has been put together and (here is an amazing thing) income exceeds expenditure by as much as 50 million rubles [R]. Now the most important thing is to obtain this money as quickly as possible and release it for the people's benefit.

One other thing about which the volost head is presently concerned is cadres. Under conditions of the territory's self-financing and self-government, volost administration workers should possess completely different professional qualities than workers of the abolished rural administrations. Incidentally, there are now two new posts in the volost government's staff—that of tax collector and land-tenure regulator. At the same time as the compact 15-strong volost government staff is being formed, rural administration staffers are working out their last days in their former positions. These are real people, mostly women, who have children. This is a vexed question. But come what may, 10 officials must go. In this volost alone R25 million will be saved which will be spent entirely on the needs of its population.

In the wake of the first Borovskaya Volost, Rayon Administration Head Nikolay Anikanov says, all 18 rural and settlement administrations in the rayon will be transformed into 8 volosts by the end of the year (which will make a saving of about R200 million by reducing staff).

Anikanov does not consider the transition to the volost system of governing rural territories to be a panacea. It is hardly necessary to redraw the whole map of the country in an unthinking and wholesale manner. It is necessary first of all to introduce volost government in those places where the infrastructure is well developed.

Novosibirsk Defense Plants Petition Yeltsin

944F0654A Novosibirsk VECHERNYY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Defense Industry Workers' Spring Break"]

[Text] **On the eve of May Day the directors of Novosibirsk's defense enterprises have written a letter to the president of the Russian Federation and the chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, and the State Duma.**

Today I.I. Indinok, chief of the administration of Novosibirsk Oblast, having brought the message to Moscow, will have handed it over to its addressees.

The essence of the letter is a cry of despair of the leaders of the thousands-strong outfits of the "capital of Siberia," where, as we know, the majority of enterprises and also research institutions represents the interests of the country's military-industrial complex, which have found themselves on the brink of ruin and, accordingly, stoppage as a result of the policy of market reforms in general and the conversion of "defense" in particular chosen by the leadership of Russia.

The exorbitant taxes, the artificially inflated price of energy and transport services, the general nonpayments, where the principal debtor is the state—this typical misfortune of product manufacturers of all forms of ownership has proven to be a genuine catastrophe for the defense enterprises, where the decline in production, in recent months in particular, is becoming an irreversible process.

"No state in the world has allowed this to happen...," the directors exclaim, demanding the adoption of urgent, special measures.

It is surprising that such a message was born after the "Strategy for the Region's Economic Stabilization: Problems and Solutions" workshop, which had only just been held in Novosibirsk and in which Deputy Prime Minister S.M. Shakhray and S.Yu. Glazyev, chairman of the Committee for Economic Policy of the State Duma, took part. Whether the workshop "platform" was not high enough. Whether the statesmen were of the wrong "caliber." Whether at this time our economy together with our wooden ruble has fallen several points further....

In any event, Novosibirsk's "defense" will "celebrate" May Day until 11 May.

What then? Just wait, you defenders of the fatherland, for the response.

Russia's Choice Organizes in Tatarstan

944F0654B Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Galina Grigorenko report: Russia's Choice Drops Anchor in Tatarstan"]

[Text] **An organizational meeting of the Kazan branch of the Russia's Choice party was held on Thursday.**

Affiliates of the most important political organizations of the Russian Federation have begun to appear in the provinces like mushrooms after a heavy rain, and not two days had elapsed since the presentation of the regional branch of the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] in Tatarstan, at which Sergey Shakhray was present, before Russia's Choice speedily made its presence known. True, Yegor Gaydar himself did not grace the gathering of future Kazan party members with his presence. His faction was represented by Valentin Mikhaylov. It is he and Aleksandr Shtanin, his recent Power of the People Republic of

Tatarstan Supreme Soviet parliamentary group colleague, who are the coordinators for the creation of the regional branch of the Russia's Choice party.

It was expected that the most radical part of Kazan's democratic movement would unite under the aegis of this party. But few familiar faces were encountered. The elections to the organizing committee were prompt, therefore. The 25 participants in the meeting voted unanimously for the nominations of Georgiy Semenov, lecturer at the Kazan State University, and Yevgeniy Kozhevatov, Oleg Talanov, and Damir Galyautdinova, deputies of the city soviet. The last of the above-mentioned had run in December on the federal slate of Russia's Choice. It was he who became chairman of the Kazan branch of Gaydar's party.

The draft program and rules were not discussed at the meeting: The contents of the basic party documents have merely been noted as yet. Revisions will not, most likely, be made to the clauses that deal with the principal goals of Russia's Choice. These are, in particular, "political support for and protection of the rights, liberties, and safety of the citizens and the formation of an effective market economy, civil society, and democratic state based on the rule of law."

There are already, apparently, branches of the new party in all districts of Kazan and in Bugulm, Almetyevsk, Bavly, and Arsk. Today their representatives are to meet for a conference to form a regional organization of Russia's Choice. Yesterday's meeting delegated the emissaries to this party undertaking. The self- nominees began their account of their career with the words "I was never a member of the CPSU," which evoked the audience's great approval. It is not hard, therefore, to anticipate who will be a principal opponent of the Tatar branch of Russia's Choice also.

Shaymiyev Interviewed on Return From Moscow

944F0654C Kazan RESPUBLIKA TATARSTANA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with M.Sh. Shaymiyev, president of Tatarstan, by A. Leksina on 30 April; place not given: "'The Treaty Could Ease the Situation'"]

[Text] As reported, M.Sh. Shaymiyev, president of Tatarstan, left immediately following completion of the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tatarstan for Moscow to take part in the work of the Federation Council and to sign the Social Accord Treaty. The president returned to Kazan late in the evening of 29 April and the following day granted an interview to correspondents of republic newspapers.

[Leksina] Mintimer Sharipovich, many different declarations have been adopted as of late, but our problems and misfortunes remain with us, as before. In signing the Social Accord Treaty were you not hoping that it could fundamentally change the situation on the difficult path of political and economic reforms?

[Shaymiyev] No, I was not. Neither this nor any other document, however carefully it has been drawn up, should be overestimated. But this treaty has a number of clauses whose practical embodiment could ease the situation and forestall many surprises. It was worth taking part in its signing if only, as it says, to ensure that no force be used in the solution of problems that arise and that in the already troubled times demands for early elections and the creation of various military formations not arise. You know my position, I have always advocated accord, and I accept no other way. The birth of this document, however, was caused by the fact that certain political forces have after the adoption of the constitution continued to make demands that go beyond the framework of the constitution, which, of course, has not contributed to the desired stabilization. Accord, however, which I hope will be achieved, should help us.

[Leksina] But you signed the treaty with amendments....

[Shaymiyev] Yes, there were many criticisms. They were cogent and presented officially, which is particularly important. After all, a conciliation commission, to which it will always be possible to appeal, should the need arise, will be formed. I insisted in Moscow at the meeting of heads of the republics on the removal of a number of provisions which could evoke actions the opposite of accord. I note with satisfaction that two-thirds of our observations were adopted.

The value of the document that was signed lies, further, in the fact that it contains many positions concerning the rights of the individual and whole peoples. The need for support even for small diasporas in their aspiration to knowledge of the culture of their people and development of the language is emphasized. Any support—both material and moral—is important here.

[Leksina] I would like to know whether the Tatar diaspora of some region sought support from you specifically.

[Shaymiyev] There are many such appeals. Specifically, the Samara diaspora had asked that I lend some assistance in the organization of a Tatar newspaper and put in a good word, so to speak, with the local authorities. I met in Moscow this time with K. Titov, head of the administration of Samara Oblast. We talked about a newspaper. The Tatar people are greatly attracted to their own national culture, however fate has scattered them. We are asked frequently not only to send textbooks and books in Tatar but also to organize tours by performing artistes. This is understandable, such meetings are spiritually enriching to both sides.

[Leksina] We know that you met in Moscow with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

[Shaymiyev] We thought about how to "force" the Russian-Tatar treaty to function with maximum efficiency and to ensure that a variety of bureaucrats not impede us en route to its realization. We will set up a commission for coordinated supervision, and the progress of fulfillment of the treaty obligations will be examined at the highest level several times a year. The question of how to strengthen

Tatarstan's economic independence within the framework of the agreement that has already been signed was broached also. It is not so much a question of Russia's position here as of the obstacles we are creating for ourselves. Although some people continue to blame Russia for all the misfortunes. This was seen also during discussion of the budget at the last session. Shaymiyev and Yeltsin shaking hands is the reason for the deepening of our problems, it was said. This is not the case, of course. Moreover, had there not been real support on the part of Russia, the situation would possibly be considerably worse. Yes, we are an industrial republic with giant enterprises. It is good when these enterprises are operating continuously. When they are standing idle, however, it is a disaster. Those who share it out know that we are today receiving from the federal budget for current expenditure more than we are paying in. For the spring operations alone we obtained a soft loan of R60 billion. This is almost 10 times more than our payments.

So I stress once again that much will depend on ourselves. In order to move forward we must have a precise program fine-tuned in all respects. And perhaps not one but two or three radical economic reform programs. It would be no great misfortune were they to differ from one another fundamentally—we would fish out what was rational. May these programs unite several groups of authors—ours and "outsiders'." The latter should not be dismissed, for great experience of the creation of various programs has after all been accumulated in the country. It is essential to speed up the birth of such a program, there is no doubt about this. In the present economic situation, however, we are putting the emphasis as yet only on measures of social protection.

[Leksina] As we know, in the morning you visited Kazan's markets. Fairs have been established there now. So, then, have our granaries not been depleted?

[Shaymiyev] No. The markets are well stocked. But it is important, in addition, that there be consumer demand, and many people's income has, unfortunately, declined. I spoke with very many people on this occasion, for hours, about everything. About the impending summer season, for example. The summer residents' concern is understandable—will the fares on suburban routes be reduced, as was the case last year and the year before. There will be a 50 percent reduction on the buses. They asked that thought be given to those who get to their country cottages by river. We will give it some thought.

[Leksina] But there are the suburban electric trains....

[Shaymiyev] I had a special talk about these with Boris Nikolayevich. It is a general problem. Thus it was decided to cover from the federal budget the reduction in fares for the summer period on suburban railroad transport. Only on weekends and holidays, it is true.

[Leksina] You were gone from the republic for more than a week. The reports in this time surely carried much that is new from the spring fields?

[Shaymiyev] The pace of work is, on the whole, higher than last year, and no particular surprises are anticipated, I believe. It will be more difficult, perhaps, only for the areas that had a protracted wet fall. The farms of the southeast of the republic.

[Leksina] The final question, Mintimer Sharipovich. You were taking part in the Federation Council for the first time. What was your impression?

[Shaymiyev] I believe that it is as yet making inadequate use of its constitutional possibilities and that this chamber has not yet (since December!) formed its own handwriting. Use needs to be made of the council's legislative initiative for the resolution of major strategic problems.

[Leksina] Thank you for the interview. We wish you a good rest from the Moscow workload during the May Day holiday.

International Affairs

Defense Ministry Says Russia Plans To Hijack Missile Plane

LD0505122994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1155 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 5 May TASS—The press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry alleges that Russia is making plans to hijack the TU-22 missile-carrying aircraft from two Air Force regiments of the Black Sea Fleet.

A statement issued by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry says that the hijacking is planned to be carried out during next training exercises of the Black Sea Fleet Air Force. Commanders of the Second Naval Missile-Carrying Aircraft Division of the Black Sea Fleet Air Force are allegedly "making secret preparations for the operation," the press service said.

The press service declared that "any attempts to remove military hardware and other material values beyond the Ukrainian borders are illegal and will inevitably worsen the situation around the problem of the division of the Black Sea Fleet."

Black Sea Fleet Official Denies Aircraft Transfer Claim

LD0405191994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] More than 20 Tu-22 combat planes of two Black Sea Fleet aviation corps are prepared to be ferried to Russia, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry press service told INTERFAX.

The press service said the command of the 2d aviation division of the Black Sea Fleet was "secretly preparing the action intended to be carried out during the next flight exercises of the Black Sea Fleet aviation." The planes are supposed to take off from the bases of Veseloye and Oktyabrskoye in Crimea, meet somewhere above the Azov Sea and land at the Krymsk military airdrome, Krasnodar territory.

The press service said that "any attempts to take military hardware and other material values belonging to the Black Sea Fleet are illegal and will inevitably lead to an aggravation of the situation around the division of the Black Sea Fleet."

The press center of the Black Sea Fleet told Interfax that the reports on ferrying Black Sea Fleet aviation to Russia were not true. The head of the press center, Andrey Grachev, said they were a "figment of the imagination" of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

Defense Ministry Warns Against Materiel Transfer to Russia

LD0405185494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] As reported by the press service of the Defense Ministry, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has come to know that the ferrying of over 20 Tu-22 missile-carrier combat aircraft to the Russian Federation is being made ready at two Black Sea Fleet aviation regiments. It is planned that the flight will be made against the background of regular tactical flight exercises of the Black Sea Fleet Air Force from the air bases of Oktyabrskoye and Veseloye in Crimea to the Russian military airfield in Krasnodarsk kray's Krymsk.

The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry emphasizes that any attempts to transfer materiel and other Black Sea Fleet material wealth outside our state, are against the law and will inevitably lead to exacerbating the situation surrounding issues of dividing the Black Sea Fleet.

French Minister Offers Assistance in Closing Chernobyl

LD0405124594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1115 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpts] Kiev, 4 May—"The election of a new parliament marked the end of a period of political indecision in Ukraine," said Alain Lamassoure, the French minister delegate for European affairs, at a news conference concluding an official visit to Ukraine by a French delegation. France is interested in expanding cooperation with the independent Ukrainian state, he said. To assist this, agreements have been signed in the course of the visit on the encouragement and protection of investments, on air transport, on cultural exchanges, and on youth and sport cooperation and exchanges. [passage omitted] During their visit to Ukraine, the French delegation discussed issues concerning energy resources and nuclear power engineering. France has proposed, Mr. Lamassoure noted, that issues regarding nuclear power engineering in Ukraine be discussed at the forthcoming G-7 summit in Naples.

France is offering Ukraine help in preparing a project to shut down all generating sets at the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station and complete the construction of three generating sets at other nuclear electric power stations to compensate for power losses caused by the closure. "We do realize, however, that the cost of these projects is very high and that only international financial support will enable Ukraine to carry them out," Mr. Lamassoure stressed. France is ready to promise such support to Ukraine, he said.

Kravchuk Thanks France for Help

LD0405150494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] At the meeting in Kiev with the Minister for European Affairs, Alain Lamassoure, President Kravchuk expressed gratitude to France for help it provides to Ukraine in scrapping nuclear weapons and providing safety for nuclear power stations. He said that the country's leadership appreciates a change in the relationships between the West and Ukraine after the three-partite agreement on nuclear weapons was signed in Moscow.

France's representatives are part of the G-7 delegation currently in Ukraine, which arrived in the Republic to study the situation at Ukrainian nuclear power stations. Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov told reporters that Ukrainian leaders will sign no documents on the results of the visit with G-7 inspectors.

INTERFAX note: The delegation includes senior officials of the G-7 nuclear energy ministries, the nuclear security fund of the European Bank for the Reconstruction and Development, the U.S. Department of State. The delegation intends to prepare materials for the G-7 summit in Naples, which explain the need of the economic aid to Ukraine.

Shmarov said that at their meeting members of the delegation expressed preparedness to provide a financial aid to Ukraine in the development of the nuclear energy and for higher level of safety at the Ukrainian nuclear power stations. This aid will be given if Ukraine refuses to commission the second block of the Chernobyl nuclear power station and agrees to the gradual closure of the first and third operating blocks.

Delegation Says $3 Billion Needed

LD0405180694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 4 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev May 4 TASS—G-7 countries understand Ukraine's concerns about the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, but have not made any commitments to extend much needed financial support, a Ukrainian high-ranking official said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, Mikhail Umanets, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear Power Engineering, said that Ukraine is ready to shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in return for financial assistance.

A Ukrainian governmental delegation met with a group of G-7 officials in Kiev today to discuss the issue. The Ukrainian side said it needs over 3 billion U.S. dollars to go ahead with the plan of closure.

However, there has been no response from G-7 officials yet, Umanets said. He said that the matter has been handed over to a special working group set up today.

Detailed reports on the problem will be submitted to the upcoming G-7 summit meeting in Naples. Umanets did not rule out the possibility that "the sides will reach a consensus" in Naples.

Environment Minister on Closing

LD0405194794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Yuriy Kostenko, Ukraine's environmental protection minister, on 4 May met representatives of a G-7 mission, which is on a visit to Ukraine. The visitors took interest in the problem of closing down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant as soon as possible and other issues relating to the use of radioactive materials in Ukraine. By closing down the Chernobyl AES, in the view of the mission's representatives, Ukraine would make a considerable contribution to guaranteeing the ecological safety of Europe.

Yuriy Kostenko said MinPryrody [Environmental Protection Ministry] was steadily insistent on the plant's closure. Because of Ukraine's complex economic situation, however, a speedy settlement to the issue, in the minister's view, is only possible given adequate financial and technological assistance from the G-7 countries.

As for the future of radioactive waste and used nuclear fuel, Yuriy Kostenko said that the only possible way for Ukraine now was to store them in makeshift depots until a national nuclear waste repository would be built.

Ministry Urges Shutdown

LD0405192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The continuing use of the Chernobyl nuclear power station is a permanent source of danger not only for Ukraine, but also for other countries of the world, head of the G-7 working group for nuclear security, Antonio Puri Purini said in Kiev Wednesday [4 May]. He is the head of a G-7 mission in Ukraine probing into the republic's nuclear security.

At his meeting with the mission's officials, Ukrainian Environmental Protection Minister Yuriy Kostenko drew everyone's attention to the fact that his ministry was the only body which insisted on immediate shut down of the station.

In Kostenko's opinion, measures taken to ensure the station's safety are not a guarantee that the surrounding territory would not be contaminated in case of an accident.

Kostenko pointed out that under the difficult economic situation faced currently by Ukraine a prompt solution of the Chernobyl issue was possible only provided "adequate" financial and technical assistance by G-7 countries. The minister pointed out that the situation was further complicated by nuclear disarmament underway in Ukraine, "which is an expensive and laborious process."

Commenting on dumping nuclear waste and exhausted fuel, Kostenko said the only acceptable variant for Ukraine would be storing such waste in temporary facilities until a stationary storage is constructed.

As INTERFAX-Ukraine learned, the deputies' group preparing the first session of the newly elected republican parliament had failed to include the commission for Chernobyl issues in the panel of commissions to be approved by the new parliament's first session.

The Ukrainian Party of Justice and the Chernobyl Union held a news conference in Kiev Wednesday calling on the deputies not to abolish the commission.

Japan To Grant $16 Million for Nuclear Disarmament

LD0405165794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Our country will have a share of $16 million in the $100 million aid package allocated by the Japanese Government for nuclear arms dismantling in Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, the Japanese Embassy told UNIAN on 4 May. Japan is expecting Ukraine to submit specific projects for this amount.

According to Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, the two countries are working on a joint declaration on principles of relations and cooperation between Ukraine and Japan, a memorandum on mutual understanding between the two countries' Foreign Ministries, and an intergovernmental agreement on mutual encouragement and protection of investments. They are also working on the issue of Ukraine's succession to the laws and agreements that regulated the relations between Japan and the former USSR.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets U.S. Security Council Official

LD0405164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1606 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by UNKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev 4 May, TASS—Ukrainian Vice-Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov met U.S. National Security Council Senior Director Nicholas Burns in Kiev on Wednesday [4 May] to discuss the implementation of the agreement signed by Russia, Ukraine and the United States to scrap Ukrainian strategic nuclear missiles.

Shmarov stressed that Ukraine has been observing its commitments under the agreement, adding that disarmament requires proper financial support.

Speaking about the safety of Ukrainian nuclear power plants, Shmarov said that Ukrainian experts are preparing proposals to this effect and will submit them to the upcoming G-7 summit meeting in Naples.

The Ukrainian vice-premier also informed the U.S. guest about conversion and space exploration programmes which offer good opportunities for cooperation with American businesses.

The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller.

Intergovernmental Economic Talks With U.S. Under Way

LD0405140394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Official Ukrainian-American negotiations on economic cooperation are underway in Kiev. Ukraine's Economics Minister Roman Shpek and special adviser of the U.S. President Nicholas Burns head the delegations.

In the course of these talks the parties are discussing problems related to rendering assistance to Ukraine in the sphere of privatization, trade, investments, and allocation of funds to procure medicines and food products.

The American party has again reaffirmed its readiness to support concrete and intensive reforms in the economy and to push for assistance to Ukraine from the G-7, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

According to Roman Shpek, "speeding up of the opportunity to receive financial, technical, and credit assistance for Ukrainian economic subjects of all forms of ownership" is one of the major tasks of these negotiations.

In the course of the meetings the parties exchanged their opinions regarding the work of the American-Ukrainian Fund in support of private enterprises. The U.S. Government has already allocated $150 million for the three-year program of this fund.

Kravchuk Welcomes Economic Relations With U.S.

LD0405165094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today received Nicholas Burns, the U.S. National Security Council's senior director, who leads a representative economic delegation on a visit to our country. There took place a friendly conversation, during the course of which a number of important issues relating to further developing bilateral cooperation was raised.

I am pleased about your delegation coming to us to settle some very important issues in accordance with the accord reached between President Clinton and myself, said Kravchuk. He went on to say: I have received a letter from President Bill Clinton saying that the delegation will work in three principal directions of mutual economic relations between our two states, which, above all, relates to the $350 million granted to Ukraine, the accord about which was reached earlier. The second direction is the development of trade and investment in this sphere, and the third has to do with reforming the Ukrainian economy and [securing] assistance from the United States of America in this matter. I was very glad to have received this letter on the eve of our meeting.

We are happy [to acknowledge] that very good relations have formed between our countries, Nicholas Burns told journalists. We came here to promote their further development. Our president holds President Kravchuk in great esteem and instructed us to do our best to bolster the formation of the best possible relations between the two countries and their governments.

Kravchuk on Hopes for Parliamentary Approval of Accords

LD0405155994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, meeting on Wednesday the head of a delegation of U.S. economists, Nicholas Burns, expressed the hope that Ukraine's newly-elected parliament would ratify the Ukrainian-American agreements signed during his January visit to the United States.

The American economists have come to Ukraine, where they are due to stay till 6 May, to find out how the country could use the economic aid to a sum of $350 million the United States plans to give it. According to Kravchuk, America is going to help Ukraine reform its economy, make investments in it and step up trade with the country.

Following his meeting with Kravchuk, Burns said a Ukrainian-U.S. fund was due to be set up this summer to give loans to private Ukrainian businesses.

Foreign Ministry Praises Israeli-Palestinian Accord

LD0405185194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] We have received a statement by Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It says, in particular:

"Ukraine regards the signing of a new Israeli-Palestinian accord on 4 May this year in Cairo as an important step toward a Middle East peace settlement, opening new prospects for defusing the Arab-Israeli conflict. The agreement signed provides an exceptional chance to extinguish the fire of the planet's longest conflict and start a new era of relations in the region.

"Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again declares its unchanging readiness to assist, on a bilateral as well as a multilateral basis, further removal of confrontation and the search for equal and mutually beneficial coexistence between Israel and the Arab region."

National Affairs

Meshkov Declares 6 May Crimean Constitution Day

LD0405092794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2018 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—On 3 May the president of the Republic of Crimea made public a decree on celebrating the constitution adopted in the autonomous republic on 6 May 1992. The decree says in part that 6 May has been declared Constitution Day of the Republic of Crimea and that this day is a day of rest. It will be declared a state holiday. The Crimean Government will take measures to ensure that Constitution Day is celebrated.

The decree comes into force on the day of signing. It will be submitted to the Crimean Supreme Council for approval.

Acting PM Discusses Economic Reform With Crimea

LD0405174994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Acting Prime-Minister Yefim Zvyahilskyy on 4 May met a government delegation from the Republic of Crimea led by Crimea's Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Saburov, the press service of the president and Cabinet of Ministers reports. They discussed issues concerning the economic situation in the autonomous republic. Yevgeniy Saburov shared his view on ways to overcome the crisis phenomena and gave a detailed account of the concrete steps taken by the Crimean government to that effect. He emphasized that his actions were guided by the fact that Crimea was a constituent part of Ukraine. Yefim Zvyahilskyy noted that Ukrainian legislation allows the Republic of Crimea sufficient powers to pursue an economic course that would take account of the peninsula's peculiarities, and that the government of Ukraine was prepared for a constructive dialogue in search of mutually acceptable solutions aimed at improving the people's well-being.

Ukraine's acting prime-minister inquired about the state of Crimea's agriculture. Everything possible must be done, he said, to gather the harvest without losses and provide the peninsula's population with food.

The heads of relevant Ukrainian departments were instructed to resolve operational issues raised by the Crimean government representatives.

The meeting was attended by Ukraine's Vice-Premier Valentyn Landyk.

Former Prime Minister Lanovyy Nominated for President

WS0405115794 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 28 Apr p 4

[Report by Nikolay Zakrevskiy: "Kiev Enterprises Nominate Volodymyr Lanovyy for President; Kharkov Enterprises Will Probably Support Him as Well"]

[Excerpts] "Tell me who you are supporting for president and I will specify the economic situation of your enterprise." I heard this loose interpretation of the saying "Tell me, who is your friend..." recently at the "Vulkan" factory in Kiev. Before my departure to Kharkov for a meeting with managing directors of CIS and Ukrainian industrial enterprises, I learned that the "Vulkan" working collective was the first Kiev enterprise to nominate Volodymyr Lanovyy for head of state. Now I understand what their words meant.

Old disputes over who is currently more important for Ukraine—a flexible politician, competent lawyer, or pragmatic economist—have most likely brought us to a conciliatory conclusion: Ukraine requires all three of them. However, the third one is more important. The realization of difficulties of our economic reality will most likely not play the final part in choosing the future president.

The invitation of V.T. Lanovyy, 42-year-old doctor of economic sciences and former prime minister, to meet with managing directors of more than 150 enterprises in Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Latvia, and Moldova shows, of course, that he is recognized as an authoritative economist and practical manager. [passage omitted]

When drafting a state budget, it is necessary to change the tax structure: To issue payments to local budgets and drop tax payments to the central Republican organs (except the most essential ones), Volodymyr Lanovyy says. These payments should not be redistributed and regions should have a free hand in dealing with their budgets.

The president of the Center for Market Reforms cited these figures: In 1993, the budget received only 40 percent of expected tax payments while during last January-February—only 25 percent of planned payments.

As for the insolvency of Ukraine, the presidential candidate: "Ukraine is solvent. It has a large currency potential, but the funds are not kept in the state. It is not profitable to bring currency into the state. I categorically oppose the practice of enterprises having to sell their earned currency to the state. This money should be deposited in Ukrainian banks. If this is not done, exporters will continue holding their money abroad. Excessive customs duties and export restrictions should be removed. Different currency rates and licensing have lead to under-the-counter deals: The one who buys currency at a lower rate, is always tempted to sell it at a higher rate. Volodymyr Lanovyy concludes that we have a unique situation. Due to the restrictive policy and the system of currency regulation, we export capital at a time when we most need it." [quotation marks as published]

Answering a question as to whether the system of tax breaks is justified, Volodymyr Lanovyy remarked: "A system of tax breaks is permissible if payments for some percent of the credit are made with funds from the state budget. Such credits are necessary to achieve structural changes and encourage unprofitable sectors. In Ukraine, the issuing of loans is always unplanned and is carried out through currency emissions and the lowering of interest rates. In 1993, the average interest rate was twice as low as the minimum interest rate offered by the National Bank. Thereby, tax breaks are mandatory elements of the government's structural policy and should be economically grounded, based on the technological reorganization of an enterprise, its profitability, conditions for providing new jobs, etc."

Estimating the current economic situation, Volodymyr Lanovyy stated: "Currently, economic policy is being shaped without considering its final results. The blind are leading the people."

The corps of managing directors did not object to this. Academician A. G. Aganbegyan, president of the All-Union Club of Directors and a well-known economist, summarized, in my opinion, the viewpoint of the majority: "The sooner Lanovyy and his followers are able to implement reforms, the quicker the revival of the Ukrainian economy will begin."

I heard more or less the same opinions at factories in Kharkov—which were visited by the presidential candidate—and at the House of Architects, where he organized a news conference with journalists. There is one curious detail: There are a considerable number of people, both among journalists and industrialists, who are ready to support Lanovyy during the presidential campaign.

Presidential Candidate Pinzenik Drops Out of Race

LD0405131394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 4 May TASS—Viktor Pinzenik, a candidate for the Ukrainian presidency, one of the prominent Ukrainian economist and former vice-premier, has dropped out of the presidential race. He announced his decision on Wednesday but declined to give the reasons for the move.

It looks like supporters of market reforms are staking on former Economics Minister Vladimir Lanovoy, 42, organiser of the "reforms for the people" parliamentary faction, president of the centre of market reforms and master of economic sciences. He stands a better chance of being elected than Pinzenik, since Lanovoy is believed to be the "victim" of cabinet games.

When Lanovoy was an economics minister and vice-premier, he suggested several programmes of coming out of the crisis which were blocked both by the cabinet of ministers and the parliament. During the current election campaign Lanovoy has been insisting on these programmes again, saying that this will bring about economic recovery of the country.

One of the real candidates to the presidential post, Leonid Kravchuk, maintains his former position, saying that elections should be postponed until later. He motivates his position by the absence of a new constitution, an indefinite status of the president and an inadequate structure of the executive power. A total of 120 Ukrainian lawmakers had come out in support of Kravchuk's position, demanding in an address the nation that the presidential elections be postponed.

This caused a stormy reaction from other lawmakers and primarily, those contesting for the post of the president. Former speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, Ivan Plyushch, is busy finding out the names of those who signed the address. The Ukrainian parliament has been putting pressure on the Ukrainian UKRINFORM news agency which circulated the address in a bid to get a list of the 120 lawmakers who put their signatures under the document.

Economy, Constitution, High on New Supreme Council's Agenda

LD0405174194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpts] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Working groups of Ukrainian people's deputies continued their meetings on today to prepare proposals on the new Supreme Council's working bodies, the draft agenda of the Supreme Council's first session, its media coverage, amendments to Ukraine's Constitution, procedural rules for plenary sessions, and proposals on Ukraine's way out of the economic crisis. Around 70 people's deputies are working in the sub-groups representing all Ukrainian oblasts, as well as political parties and public organizations. They have prepared a draft agenda for the 13th convocation of the first session of the Supreme Council to be held in May-July, including, apart from the appointment of the Supreme Council's leadership and the government, a report by the president of Ukraine: "On the political and socioeconomic situation," reports by the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank of Ukraine, as well as debates on the draft Constitution of Ukraine, a draft Supreme Council resolution on the division of state assets between Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea, and appointment of the Constitutional Court, etc.

The working groups are discussing the Ukrainian Supreme Council's prospective committees. However, proposals differ considerably from group to group. [passage omitted]

Members of the working groups are to hold a joint session chaired by Vasyl Durdynets, former first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, to coordinate the proposals. According to confidential sources, Vasyl Durdynets is one of the surest candidates for the post of Supreme Council speaker.

Commentary Views 'Pros, Cons' of Current Monetary Policy

AU0405192094 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Oleksa Kurpas: "Monetarism: 'Pros' and 'Cons'"]

[Text] Over the last quarter of 1993, the prices in Ukraine rose by 89 percent and the amount of money in circulation—by 17 percent. This is the government's monetary policy, when uncovered karbovantsi are not issued. Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy is the country's chief monetarist.

Mr. Zvyahilskyy says that, owing to the introduction of the financial rate of currencies and the stringent monetary policy, inflation could be curbed and that now it amounts to about 20 percent a month (against 300 percent last year).

However, monetarism is a double-edged weapon. Ex-prime minister Leonid Kuchma stresses that it is such a policy that has led to the crisis in industry. As of today, the debts of our enterprises in credits amount to 134.1 trillion karbovantsi [K] and in debits to K101.4 billion. In order to emerge from this situation, bills of exchange should have been introduced. However, for some reason, this procedure is being delayed. The Ministry of Finance, with Hryhoriy Pyatachenko at the head, refuses to redeem those bills of exchange that enterprises or private persons hold.

Chairman of Ukraine's National Bank Viktor Yushchenko is yet another advocate of monetarism. It still remains a mystery on what principles he distributes the credits. It was only under the pressure of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [USPP] (with Leonid Kuchma as president) that industry received from Ukraine's National Bank K5.4 trillion in stabilization credits and K5.5 trillion in assistance. However, today's needs are much greater. To be sure, the karbovanets of the unpaid wages results in two or three karbovantsi of nonpayments. Because of this, members of the USPP are threatening to disband Ukraine's National Bank and instead, create some mysterious institution that will grant credits to everybody.

Minister of Economics Roman Shpek says that this policy is meant for stabilizing the economic situation. However, in reality, it turns out that enterprises are becoming hostages to Zvyahilskyy and company. In the opinion of Volodymyr Lanovyy [former minister of economics], monetary policy is necessary, but only under the conditions of a stable economy, or else the state is simply covering up truly bankrupt enterprises, replaces real unemployment by a hidden one, and will lead the economy to total collapse.

Belarus

Kebich Accused of Usurping Radio, TV in Campaign

LD0405150294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 85 (575); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich's campaign officers have succeeded to collect signatures of more than 100,000 voters and 150 deputies, which is more than is needed to stand as presidential candidate. The Central Electoral Commission [CEC] is due to register him as such in the next few days.

Kebich is free to choose whether he wants to be nominated by parliament or the voters, a CEC source told INTERFAX IF Note: Under the election law, a presidential candidate is expected to collect 100,000 signatures on the ground or 70 signatures by Belarussian deputies to qualify for the race. As many as 19 candidates seek nomination in a signature collecting campaign due to end on May 14.

Many of the contenders are about to collect the required number of signatures. Among those collecting 70,000 signatures are former Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich, Communist Party and People's Front Movement leaders Vasiliy Novikov and Zenon Pozniak as well as head of the now-abolished anti-corruption commission Aleksandr Likhashenko.

Critics of the Prime Minister have accused him of usurping radio and television ahead of the presidential campaign.

Shushkevich's campaign managers issued a statement saying "the government's propaganda machine for Kebich's nomination was switched on long before the election itself." They said "any provision of air time to Kebich's rivals carried the risk of a journalist's dismissal" adding that perpetual appearance on radio and television by Kebich and his team was unfair.

Campaign managers of two other candidates have also accused the Prime Minister of using central and local government staff in his presidential campaign.

In the meantime, President of the National Bank Stanislav Bogdankevich told Interfax that all of the heads of NBB branches had been warned against financing any of the presidential candidates. In this connection, the Bank will also tighten control over commercial bank operations, he said.

IF Note: Representatives of nine pro-democracy groups and movements set up a public supervisory commission to make sure that the forthcoming election is free and fair.

Hryb Comments on Legislative Economic Council Work

WS0505100694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by Mikhail Rudkowski]

[Excerpt] The first session of the Economic Council established at the office of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet chairman was held today. As everybody knows, there has never been such a council in the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. Opening the session, [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Mechyslaw Ivanavich Hryb noted that the Supreme Soviet has not paid enough attention to economic issues, saying that this has been a sort of negligence.

[Begin Hryb recording] The three years of reforms have not brought about the desired results. I would rather the contrary: The Belarusian economy is currently in a deep crisis. Although the strategy of conducting market reforms in Belarus depends, to a certain degree, not only on internal, but also external factors, responsibility falls on the government as well as the Supreme Soviet. Time has shown that the Legislative Branch can do nothing but deal with this extremely important problem. Legislative acts concerning the economy, which have been adopted by the Supreme Soviet, require the most amount of independent study. Also needed are broad consultations on these problems. We should reexamine the course of socioeconomic reforms and the social situation in Belarus. It is vital to find a way out of the current situation. Examining and resolving current problems should become the main goal of our Economic Council. It is essential for the Supreme Soviet to know the opinions of highly qualified specialists on prospects for the development of our economy. We understand that it is virtually impossible to alleviate the predicament without concentrating on our intellectual potential. Therefore, it has been decided to establish the Economic Council.

We have managed...[Hryb pauses] We should also create a more operative body which would examine the issues of economic development, present to the legislative, and possibly executive authorities, specific proposals on ways of resolving economic issues, predicting results of various phenomena, etc. Such a structure, however, is more adequate for the presidential office. Nevertheless, I believe that we cannot, and we do not need to do this until the first president deals with this issue. We must not waste our time. We have already wasted a lot of it.

Our first request to you is to present your opinion on existing legislation of the Republic of Belarus, which concerns economic issues. [end recording]

The Economic Council comprises scientists, economists, and managers of industrial enterprises, joint ventures, and joint stock companies, as well as firms and banks. Thus, the council has united professionals who are supposed to work out a concept for overcoming the economic crisis in Belarus. [passage omitted]

Further Production Decline Reported in Jan-Mar 94

WS0405131294 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1136 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] According to the State Committee for Statistics and Analysis, between January and March 1994, GNP in Belarus dropped by 38-percent compared with the corresponding period last year. The volume of industrial production decreased by 35 percent, construction—27 percent, and agriculture—4 percent. Investments fell by 29 percent, retail trade—47 percent. A particularly acute decline was seen in production of such goods as feed-preparing and animal husbandry machines (86.5 percent), agricultural machines (60.7), slate (79.3), light roofing materials (72.7), paper (70.7), sulfuric acid (68.1), chemical fibers and threads (44.1), tractors (46.4), tracks (45.4), textiles (56.8), and sausage (48.2).

Chavusy Tank Base Closed, Cleared Out Ahead of Schedule

WS0505104694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1530 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] As BELAPAN has learned, the 1,336th central tank reserve base in Chavusy, Mahilyow Oblast, has been liquidated four months ahead of a previously established deadline. Around 1,000 pieces of tank equipment have been transported by 24 trains to either the Barysaw tank repair plant for dismantlement or temporarily to the 969th central tank reserve base in Urechcha, Minsk Oblast.

Although the Chavusy base was initially scheduled to be liquidated by 1 September 1994, the last three temporary-service soldiers were released to the Reserves on 30 April.

Representatives of UN Drugs Control Board To Visit

WS0405135994 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1236 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] Between 4 and 6 May, representatives of the UN International Narcotics Control Board [INCB] will be paying an official visit to Belarus. The main goal of the visit is to discuss international treaties concerning the fight against drugs, cooperation between Belarus and the INCB, technical assistance to Belarus in this area, and the development of a national mechanism for controlling the production and distribution of drugs and psychotropic substances.

It is expected that in the course of the visit, the INCB representatives will meet with Belarusian Interior Ministry leaders and workers from various Interior Ministry departments. [passage omitted]

Moldova

Chisinau Restores Ties With Tiraspol

LD0405115994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Moldova's Deputy Premier Valentin Kunev regards as possible the restoration of financial and economic relations between Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol in their former volume. There is every chance for that, he said in an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday.

In his opinion, the recent top-level talks between Moldova and Transdniestria "have created a political situation that makes it possible to do it." He disclosed that Moldova's National Bank would unveil its office in Transdniestria shortly, and through this body "a system of mutual crediting would be devised and put to work."

As he put it, "by launching a mechanism of mutual accounts," Kishinev and Tiraspol will be able to "resolve the issues that have piled up in power engineering, communication, and other fields." In his words, "common approaches have been found to how the Tiraspol airport should operate." "Moldova, Kunev said, is ready to help reopen it the best it can, but only after the Tiraspol authorities persuade the 14th Russian Army, controlling the military airport, to make it municipal property.

New Party of Communists Registered

LD0405193394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1834 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 4 May TASS—Moldavia [Moldova] registered a new political party on Wednesday, the Party of Communists of Moldavia.

Party co-Chairman Vladimir Voronin said that his party will start its activity with re-registering members of the former Communist Party who want to resume their membership.

Voronin said that the party will soon open sections in regions to gain support for the upcoming local elections. He believes that party may count on success.

Voronin, former interior minister removed by the popular front in 1990, said that the recent victory of the Socialist Party has shown that people are tired of ethnic upheavals and want to have politicians who can ensure stability.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Declares Russia Major Partner, Ally

LD0405140194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Russia is Kyrgyzstan's major partner and its strategic ally, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev declared during his meeting with Chairman of Russia's Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko on Wednesday [4 May] in Bishkek.

In the course of their conversation Akayev pointed out that Kyrgyzstan and Russia maintain traditional friendly and partnership relations. However, in his opinion, there are several problems in the republic related to migration of the Russian-speaking population.

Akayev underlined, that Kyrgyzstan does its utmost to solve this problem. In his words, it needs Russia's assistance. He indicated that the Slavic University formed in Bishkek in which the Republic's Russian-speaking population can receive an education represents "one of the examples of the Russian-speaking population's strengthening."

As Akayev said, it is necessary to create other institutes and organizations so as to lower the level of Russian migration from Kyrgyzstan. He also pointed out that in the near term the Republic's government would adopt a state program in order to keep its Russian-speaking population from leaving.

Shumeyko underlined that Russia is ready to render economic assistance to Kyrgyzstan, in particular, "to support the Republic's regions, which have suffered from natural disasters."

Attends Kyrgyz Constitutional Court Meeting

LD0405202294 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] An enlarged meeting of the constitutional court of the Kyrgyz Republic was held on 4 May. Askar Akayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov took part in the meeting. Also taking part in the meeting's work were the members of the law division of the commissions of the supreme and arbitration court, representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the procurator, and of the Internal Affairs Ministry. President Askar Akayev, in his speech, expressed his satisfaction for those who drafted the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. It is obvious that this basic law opens the way for further enhancement of the social and economic development of the Republic. [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Akayev Receives Japenese Fund Representatives

LD0405194194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1605 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Askar Akayev received today a delegation of the Japanese Fund Sotokawa. The delegation is being led by Mr. Takaya, the director general of the fund's department for international affairs. Its goal is to contribute to the efforts of the UN organization in peace-making activities and support those who have suffered from natural disasters.

Kyrgyzstan Will Celebrate Constitution Anniversary 5 May

LD0405144694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1409 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek 4 May TASS—Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] will hold celebrations on Thursday to mark the first anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution.

The festivities are expected to be attended by deputies of the Russian, Azerbaijani and Armenian parliaments and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh who are in Bishkek to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and ways to settle it.

Their talks that began on Monday are held within the framework of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. Russia is represented by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Federal Assembly.

Tajikistan

Government Delegation Arrives in Khorog on Visit

LD0405182394 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] A government delegation led by Bozgul Dodkhudoyeva, deputy chairman of the Tajikistani Council of Ministers, today arrived in Khorog. The delegation will visit the Shughnon and Ishkashim rayons and other rayons of Gorno-Badakhshan, will hold meeting with labor collectives of enterprises and organizations, and will meet with representatives of the agro-industrial complex in order to ascertain for themselves the state of the political and economic situation in the oblast.

The main objective of the visit is to explain the new draft constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan to the people of the Pamirs. The delegation will also try to find out the reasons behind the complicated sociopolitical situation along the border localities of Gorno-Badakhshan.

Russian Forces Foil Tajik Attack on Afghan Border

LD0505084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Dushanbe 5 May TASS—Russian border guards curtailed by artillery barrage an attempt of Tajik militants to break through the Tajik-Afghan border on Wednesday night.

The attempt was made at the site of the 10th frontier post patrolled by the Pyandj border-guarding unit, a spokesman for the headquarters of the Russian Frontier Troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS.

No losses in Russian personnel were reported.

Armenia

U.S. Energy Representatives Discuss Cooperation in Yerevan

LD0405214694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1648 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 4 May—Prospects for the development of Armenia's power engineering were the center of attention at the second National Conference on problems in this sphere, which ended its work here today. Its organizers—the Armenian Ministry of Energy and Fuel along with the U.S. Department of Energy, International Development Agency, and the U.S. energy association. About 400 delegates including representatives of 65 power engineering firms and companies from a number of countries discussed a broad range of problems concerning power saving, power engineering, heating supplies, electrical systems and networks, alternative energy sources and prospecting for fuel deposits.

The results of the forum exceeded our expectations, said Sepukh Tashchyan, Armenian state minister. Speaking at a news conference here today, he said 30 proposals had been received from various foreign firms which, with serious development and financing, could produce good results.

Susan Olds, director of the Caucasus regional section of the U.S. International Development Agency, said the U.S. Government was prepared to grant Armenia $26 million in aid to be spent on the development of energy saving and raising the efficiency of power usage, on the development of hydro-power, alternative and renewable sources of energy. The European Union is giving Armenia a certain amount of aid.

U.S. President Bill Clinton regards as very important the process of democratization in the former republics of the USSR, stated Richard Williamson, representative of the U.S. Department of Energy. Therefore, he said, the U.S. Government supports and encourages the activities of those firms that may be useful to Armenia in carrying out reforms, in implementing the course of democratization. Armenia has all the technical and intellectual potential for our further cooperation in the sphere of power engineering, the U.S. representative stressed.

Paper Interviews Russian, U.S., Iranian Envoys

PM0505095594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Karen Topchyan: "A Russian, an American, and a Persian Were Asked.... Diplomats Express Views on Caucasian Topics"]

[Text] Yerevan— The ambassadors of Russia, the United States, and Iran accredited to Yerevan have expressed their views on events in the Transcaucasus in the parliamentary newspaper RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA under the headline "Bermuda Triangle or Scope for Accord?" Vladimir Stupishin, leader of Russia's diplomatic mission, states: "All the new foreign countries, and not just the Transcaucasus, are an area of priority attention for Russia. The Transcaucasus as a whole, and Armenia in particular, occupy their own historically determined place in the new community (CIS), where Russia is not the older brother, let alone the imperial center, but is a partner on an equal footing and even an ally in military-political questions. All Russia's actions and efforts here can only be of a purely peaceful political nature."

In the opinion of U.S. Ambassador Harry Gilmore, his country "upholds the independence and territorial integrity of every Caucasian state. In this regard the United States is opposed to the influence of any country on another independent country." While his Iranian counterpart Ahmad Sobhani considers that "It must be borne in mind that the Caucasus should not become a platform for launching an attack on others. All countries should support the independence of the Caucasus and respect the opinion of the peoples of the region."

Asked how he perceives the resolution of the ethnic and territorial conflicts in the former Union, the Russian ambassador replied: "They need to be tackled on the basis of the generally accepted principles and norms of international law and, as far as possible, through our own means within the framework of the CIS mechanism and on a bilateral basis."

Russia is ready to assume "a mediating role." Furthermore, "practice shows that no one, apart from Russia, is ready today to shoulder the peacemaking burden in the area of the former USSR."

For his part, Ambassador Gilmore considers that confrontation "must be peacefully resolved by the governments of those states on the basis of the criteria adopted by the United Nations and the CSCE and international laws." And the opinion of the Iranian ambassador in Armenia is that "When disagreements emerge it is the actual parties who should first and foremost seek way of conciliation. When conflicts deepen, surrounding countries are naturally bound to show disquiet. The potential of mediators should also be taken into account."

The diplomats' answers to a question about Armenia's likely foreign policy priorities are very interesting. Vladimir Stupishin: "Objectively, historical development has been such that Russia and Armenia have many common interests in all spheres of life concerning the state and the people, and spiritual kinship, common cultural values, and a joint history exist between our peoples." Harry Gilmore: "I think that the three peoples of the Caucasus form a bridge between Europe and Asia. I personally hope that Armenia's gaze will turn in every direction." Ahmad Sobhani: "The Caucasus should establish constructive relations and seek sources of cooperation everywhere."

Prosecutor's Office Investigates High-Level Corruption

NC0405193294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1149 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 4 May (SNARK)—Artavazd Gevorkyan, Armenian General Prosecutor, reported today to the Armenian temporary Parliamentary commission that presently the Prosecutor's Office is investigating seven criminal cases connected with the abuse of power by high rank officials.

The temporary Parliamentary commission is engaged in control of the corresponding inquest group of the Armenian Prosecutor's Office.

He said the inquest group has revealed "a system of theft and misappropriation of big money sums, coming to a person through a dummy."

The General Prosecutor declared that some persons, engaged in this case, had left Armenia, and it hampers the effective investigation.

He also reported that the Interior Ministry is intensively searching these persons. The General Prosecutor added that over 1,000 people in Armenia are in a search on suspicion of committing various crimes. Mr. Gevorkyan said nobody has exerted any pressure on him connected with the cases of power abuse.

Azerbaijan

Clinton's Letter to Aliyev on Aid Assessed

NC0405201694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 2 May 94

["Text" of State Adviser Qabil Guseynli's assessment of President Clinton's letter to President Aliyev on U.S. aid to Azerbaijan—recorded]

[Text] Political circles have focused much attention on President Bill Clinton's letter to President Geydar Aliyev. The letter contained specific suggestions for trying to establish the new diplomatic approaches that are required for improvement in the relations between the United States and Azerbaijan.

The question of humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan must be emphasized at this point. It will be recalled that the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution to enable the U.S. Administration to provide humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan when the former government was in power in our republic with a view to supporting Azerbaijan's independence. The resolution applied only to Azerbaijan among the former Soviet republics. It worried Armenia at the time. I wish to take note of several facts. The number of refugees in Azerbaijan totalled 120,000 when the resolution was adopted. However, that number has increased to more than 1 million at the present time. That shows that the humanitarian aid Armenia has received when Azerbaijan was deprived of that right has contributed toward the further broadening of that republic's aggression.

I also wish to stress that the U.S. political circles, President Clinton in particular, are well aware of that state of affairs. It has been observed that President Clinton's stand on the maintenance of the embargo on Azerbaijan has significantly changed since October 1993. The letter he conveyed to President Aliyev, in which he mentioned that he personally supports the lifting of the embargo, indicated that President Clinton's stand on the matter has significantly changed and that he intends to influence the Congress.

In addition, I wish to recall a point that was mentioned in President Clinton's letter. He stressed that the commencement of the peace process on Daghlyk Karabakh within the CSCE framework will facilitate humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan. That was an indication that the United States wishes to contribute toward the peace process in the region and give every kind of support for the peaceful progress of social and political changes in Azerbaijan. That, however, requires serious work by Azerbaijan's diplomats.

Reportage on Aliyev Visit to Belgium

Meets With Dehaene

NC0405184894 Baku TURAN in English 1547 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Brussels (4 May) TURAN—This morning in Brussels in the governmental residence, a meeting between Azerbaijan's President, Geydar Aliyev and Belgium's Prime Minister Jean Luc Dehaene took place. During their meeting they discussed issues of bilateral cooperation and regional security. Aliyev told the Prime Minister about the developments in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Both sides were unanimous in the opinion that the conflict should be solved by peaceful means. Azerbaijan's joining the preliminary document of the "Partnership for the Sake of Peace" programme will promote the development of Azeri-Belgian relations.

"We support the attempts to restore peace and stability in the Caucasus and support the negotiation process within the CSCE Minsk Group framework," said Dehaene. After the talks, Aliyev said that Belgium will review the draft for an agreement on friendship and cooperation plus a number of other agreements put forth by Azerbaijan.

To Meet With NATO's Woerner

NC0405181094 Baku TURAN in English 1547 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Brussels (May 4) TURAN—Today at 1135 President Aliyev will meet with the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Manfred Woerner, at the NATO's headquarter. They will discuss the matters concerning cooperation between Azerbaijan and the NATO. Today at 1400 Azerbaijan is due to sign the NATO's programme "Partnership in Sake for Peace." At 1500 Azeri President will conduct press conference.

"Signing of the NATO's programme is very important for Azerbaijan," the leader of Analytical Centre of President's Staff, Eldar Namazov, told Turan.

"We are the 15th country which signs this document. Azerbaijan intends to establish many-sided military cooperation not only with Russia. Azerbaijan hopes that the NATO's possibilities and rating will be able to put an end to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and to restore peace in the region in the near future. We also hope that this agreement will create preconditions for formation of Collective Security System in which Azerbaijan will have its own place. Moreover, we come out for creation of System of Collective Security for Transcaucasian countries and neigbouring with them states," said Eldar Namazov.

As is known, the NATO's programme "Partnership for the Sake of Peace" provides for conduction of joint arrangements, military cooperation and coordinated foreign policy of the countries, which signed this programme.

Signs Partnership for Peace

LD0405135894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1301 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels, 4 May—Today Azerbaijan became the 15th country to join the "Partnership for Peace" program proposed by NATO countries and states of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan, signed the program's outline document at the NATO Brussels headquarters today.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Aliyev stressed that his country adheres to the principles of democracy and free enterprise. Its foreign policy proceeds from the principle of interdependence of the present-day world and is based on the principles of respect for national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonviolation of borders.

At the same time, Aliyev noted, Azerbaijan is experiencing a grave economic crisis caused by a collapse of ties with the former Soviet republics and the transition to a new economic system. The crisis is being aggravated by the armed conflict with Armenia. Aliyev stated there is no military solution to the conflict and favors stepping up the efforts of international organizations, first of all the UNO and the CSCE Minsk group, aimed to attain a settlement at the negotiation table. The conditions put forward by his country for these talks consist of an immediate cease-fire and the withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijan's occupied territories. The talks should ensure Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. It is only after this that Baku is prepared to examine the issue of a status of autonomy for Nagornyy Karabakh.

In signing the document on partnership, Azerbaijan, according to Aliyev, visualizes for itself two main goals for the development of cooperation with NATO: the country's integration into Western democracy and its quest for additional ways to stabilize the situation in the Caucasus and to end the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Sergio Balanzino, the NATO deputy secretary general who chaired today's session of the NATO Council, noted that regional conflicts today are a serious threat to stability and security in the zone of Europe and the Atlantic. Within the framework of the Council for North Atlantic Cooperation, which includes both Azerbaijan and Armenia, the countries of the alliance are making efforts to mediate with the purpose of a peaceful settlement to the conflict. He welcomed the measures taken in this direction by the Minsk CSCE group, stressing that only a solution of this kind can bring peace back to the region. Participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program will develop in accordance with the the tempo and content Azerbaijan itself determines, Balanzino noted, expressing the hope that this cooperation would contribute to stability and security in Transcaucasia and throughout the Euro-Atlantic zone.

Also today Geydar Aliyev met the Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene. He invited the head of the Belgian Government to visit Azerbaijan and expressed confidence that a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be signed during his visit to Baku.

Azerbaijani Attack, Border Shelling Reported

NC0505072994 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Army again intensified its aggressive operations along the northeastern border of Armenia on the morning of 3 May. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that the enemy subjected the border settlements and defensive positions in Noyemberyanskiy, Idzhevanskiy, Tavushskiy, and Berd rayons to heavy artillery shelling as of 1800. All types of weapons were used.

In an attempt to fulfill a recently planned military operation by the Azerbaijani Army command, a large armed group in Kazakhskiy Rayon launched an attack at 2100 with the support of tanks against Berdavan in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon. The enemy achieved some success against our border guards and approached the village. However, after 40 minutes, the Armenian Army fighters regrouped their forces and threw the enemy back and recovered their initial positions. The positional battles continued until 2400. Both sides suffered losses.

The Azerbaijani formations fiercely shelled Vazashen and Diran in Idzhevanskiy Rayon, Aygepar and Paravakar in Tavushskiy Rayon, and Vahan in Krasnoselskiy Rayon last night. Casualty figures are being determined. Our border guards took countermeasures and silenced the enemy at dawn.

According to the press service, a relative calm prevailed on Armenia's northeastern border during the day today.

Heavy Fighting Reported in Terterskiy

NC0405183394 Baku TURAN in English 1547 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Baku (4 May) TURAN—Heavy fightings, which began yesterday morning, continues, the head of Executive power of Terter city, Sardar Gamidov, told Turan at 1300. He said that on 3 May the Armenian troops resumed offensive towards the city of Terter from the village of

Gyzyl-oba (Karmiravan). The Armenian Army is armed with artillery and military hardware and tries to break the defense of the Azeri Army. According to Gamidov, over the past two days the Armenian units lost many lives in this direction but failed to achieve success. At the same time, the Armenian troops try move further along the road Agdam-Barda. Fierce fighting are taking place in the village of Bash-Gervend.

The same source reports that last evening the Armenian troops shelled the city of Barda from Grad plants. Wounded and damages are reported.

According to unofficial sources, there is no fighting at another sections of the front.

Karabakh Forces Said To Have Gained Heights In Mardakert

LD0405162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Azerbaijani forces have renewed an offensive in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakert region late in the day on Wednesday with Chailu and Karmiravan villages now coming under attack, an Armenian military spokesman told INTERFAX.

However, he said Karabakh units occupying more advantageous positions were dealing tangible strikes on the adversary,

Several strategic heights near Karmiravan are said to have fallen into the hands of Armenian forces by 1730.

But there was general calm elsewhere in the region, the spokesman said.

In the meantime, no military report has been made available to INTERFAX by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry yet.

Aliyev Envoy Said To Seek 'Truce' With Elchibey

NC0405181894 Baku TURAN in English 1547 GMT 4 May 94

["President Aliyev Wishes To Conclude Truce With Abulfaz Elchibey"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku (4 May) TURAN—Over the past month President Aliyev's personal representative has met with ex-President, Abulfaz Elchibey, in the village of Keleki of Ordubadskiy region of Nakhchivan for three times, report sources close to Elchibey.

Elchibey was offered to announce officially that he is not ex-President and he does not have any claims for power. In exchange of that he will be able to return to Baku and will be guaranteed security. Moreover, the authorities will not hinder political activity of Elchibey and his supporters.

However, President Aliyev's suggestion was rejected, reports the same source. Elchibey mentioned that he cannot believe Aliyev's promises. As a preliminary condition, Elchibey suggested that Geydar Aliyev should release all political prisoners and return all the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] supporters, which left their Motherland after events of 4 June 1993, to Azerbaijan.

Guliyev Unable To Attend Bishkek Talks Due Fighting

LD0405211494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] As the INTERFAX agency reports, Azerbaijan's National Assembly Chairman Rasul Guliyev was unable to go to Bishkek [for talks today on a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict] in connection with the sudden increase in military operations, and he is at the front at the present time.

Captured Afghan Mojahed Says Others Fighting in Army

LD0405141994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] An Afghan mojahed taken prisoner by the Nagorno Karabakh Army has vowed to fight on its side if he was not put to death.

Bakhtiyar Werballah Baberzayid, 20, told INTERFAX he would take the side of Azerbaijan's disputed Armenian-speaking enclave because its soldiers were better fighters than Azerbaijanis. He also said he knew some of Azerbaijan's military secrets, such as its field works system on some sections of the front, mainly in the Fizuli sector. He said that, with a platoon of good soldiers, he would be able to take a whole district in Azerbaijan.

Baberzayid, who comes from Mazar-e Sharif, said the Azerbaijani Army has a permanent contingent of between 2,000 and 2,500 Afghan mojahedin. He said that up to 250 of them are currently fighting in the Fizuli sector alone, where he commanded a detachment of 20. They are based in the town of Beilagan, he said.

The prisoner said Azerbaijan had promised him and other mojahedin a monthly pay of up to 5,000 U.S. dollars. But for the first two months, a probation period, each of them had been paid 1,000 Azerbaijani manats a month.

Baberzayid said mojahedin usually serve in infantry and assault forces, since most of them have rich experience in mountain warfare and are highly skilled in the use of all types of mainly Soviet-made firearms.

The Nagorno Karabakh Army, meanwhile, confirmed Azerbaijani media reports that there are Lezghins, members of one of the smaller Caucasus ethnic groups, in its ranks. The Army staff said that up to 20 Lezghin volunteers from northern Azerbaijan are today fighting on the Nagorno-Karabakh side and quoted one of them as saying, "What is being decided in Nagorno-Karabakh is the fate not only of the Armenians but also of the Lezghins, Talysh and other national minorities, whose territories were forcibly incorporated into Azerbaijan at the behest of Stalin and communist authorities."

Azerbaijan's Stand on Partnership for Peace Viewed

NC0405200594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televisiyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 3 May 94

[Commentary by Qullu Muherremov]

[Text] The political nature of NATO's program on the Partnership for Peace, which has been adopted in accordance with the proposal made by the United States, is aimed at neutralizing a possible threat of war either in Europe or elsewhere in the world after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Meanwhile, the recent developments particularly in eastern Europe have raised the question of the need to restructure NATO to enable it to assume a special role for the establishment of a new security system in that continent. In fact, a coordination and solidarity council was created within NATO for that purpose in 1992. However, several political observers believe that it failed to fulfill its tasks.

Recent incidents, particularly the Bosnia syndrome [previous word in English], have forced NATO to consider new parameters in its approach on various developments. That is how NATO's program on the Partnership for Peace was drawn up. Considering the fact that the countries, which have signed that program, have undertaken certain commitments, Azerbaijan's participation in it will be in our republic's interest. The main commitment is that none of the signatory countries must put forward territorial claims against the other. Furthermore, they must avoid using force and respect the principle of nonviolation of borders. According to that program, NATO will hold intensive talks with any country that is threatened. That is of real significance for Azerbaijan.

Another important aspect of that program for Azerbaijan is the help our republic can get from NATO in the establishment and training of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces.

Participating in NATO's program of the Partnership for Peace will also bring to light various complex problems in the Karabakh dispute. It will be recalled that the CSCE summit in Helsinki in May 1992 discussed the possibility of using NATO's military forces in ending disputes in the CSCE countries. The proposal that was made on the matter was approved. That means that our republic's participation in NATO's program of the Partnership for Peace is essential if it wishes to safeguard and maintain its independence and if it decides to exclude itself from the framework of the other countries [CIS] in the future.

Two important points should be assessed when that matter is considered. The first is the question of whether or not Armenia can participate in that program. Political observers are convinced that an initiative by Armenia in that regard will depend on Russia's stand. That is due to the agreement they have signed to become military allies. So, an initiative by Armenia will depend on Russia's decision. The second is the question of whether or not Azerbaijan's participation in the program will create anxiety in the neighboring countries, particularly in Azerbaijan's northern and southern neighbors. A serious cause for anxiety does not exist. Those countries are well aware that Azerbaijan has no claim against them and that its participation in the program is related only to its intention to maintain its independence.

Georgia

Abkhazian Government 'in Exile' Refuses To Move to Zugdidi

PM0405153594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksey Sinelnikov: "Abkhazian Cabinet of Ministers Refuses To Move From Tbilisi"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The Abkhazian Cabinet of Ministers has categorically refused to move from Tbilisi to the western Georgian city of Zugdidi.

The decision to move the government headquarters in exile closer to the autonomous formation was adopted by the Georgian leadership in mid-April. It was attributed to the fact that the majority of refugees are now in western Georgia, and in this connection it was recommended to the ministers who are exiled from Abkhazia that they should be closer to their people. The administrator of Zugdidskiy Rayon has allocated a special building for them and created all the necessary working conditions.

In connection with the refusal by the Abkhazian Cabinet of Ministers to leave the capital of Georgia, the Republic's Vice Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili, who is organizing this measure, has issued a statement. It says that if the Abkhazian Government refuses to move today, "it is doubtful whether it will move onto the territory of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic in the future."

Almost all of the leadership of the autonomous formation is currently in Georgia: the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, the deputies of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, Abkhazian prosecutors, judges, rayon administrators, the police, and so forth. They feel pretty good in their own posts, albeit purely nominal posts, but nevertheless responsible ones, and they clearly do not want to change anything in their working rhythm.

On the other hand, the 150,000 refugees who are in western Georgia—80,000 of whom live actually in Zugdidi—have so far been managing without a government.

Ioseliani Discusses Geneva Talks, Russian Ties

AU0405195094 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Dzhaba Ioseliani, head of the Georgian delegation at the Geneva talks on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, by Inga Abgarova and Tinatin Gviniashvili; place and date not given: "Maintaining Georgia's Territorial Integrity—This Is the Most Important Thing...."]

[Text] [SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] Batono [Georgian polite form of address] Dzhaba, what is your assessment of the talks that were recently held in Geneva? Was any progress made?

[Ioseliani] I did not see that any particular progress was made. There was too much beating around the bush. I would say that the Abkhazian side does not hold a specific position. However, we presented a number of constructive proposals. The demands presented by the Abkhazians are unrealistic and not viable. The one thing that can be viewed as a positive result is that the Abkhazians have finally become convinced that there cannot be a so-called independent Abkhazia. Even the most reactionary-minded separatist leaders have finally realized this and come to terms with it. They are now dashing about, trying to find a way out of the situation and think up some form or another so that they can run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, as they say. Our aim is to activate the peacekeeping forces so that they move into the conflict zone.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] Peacekeeping forces from which state would be the most welcome for the peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia?

[Ioseliani] We have several options at our disposal today. The United Nations, the CSCE, and so forth have become involved in this matter. I believe the ideal option would be to bring in Russian peacekeeping troops under UN command. I have in mind high command, UN jurisdiction. This option is good for us, good for Russia, and good for the whole world. All this is realistic, provided that there is no clash of interests between the UN and Russian sides.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] Can one say that the most important thing at the negotiations was the question of the return of the refugees?

[Ioseliani] All questions were decided on an equal level, as should be. As for the question of the status of Abkhazia, all is clear on this score. We agree to all the conditions and do not intend to restrict the Abkhazians in any way, something that, incidentally, we have never done. However, there is one condition: Maintaining the territorial integrity of Georgia—this is the most important thing. One should not forget that the Georgian people have never been vindictive. Georgia has always been famous for its amazing ability to get along with people of different nationalities. This is a brilliant quality that our people have.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] You will, of course, agree that, in today's conditions and specifically regarding the question of settlement in Abkhazia, it is very important for Georgia how world opinion and, in particular, Russia views us. Nonetheless, as we have learned, it is precisely in Russia that there has recently developed a negative attitude toward Georgia. Many, in particular member of Parliament Tengiz Kitovani [former defense minister], explain this as enmity toward the head of state.

[Ioseliani] This is not the case. Some people like someone, others do not. This is a superficial judgment. Perhaps there are those within Kitovani's circle who, being aware of his strained relations with the head of state, deliberately state things in this way. Such a view can be explained by the fact that many shortsighted politicians in Russia blame Shevardnadze for destroying the empire. They do not understand that the empire could have met with a far more terrible fate.

Having returned to the track of normal development, Russia has embarked upon the path of democracy. Intelligent people in Russia have a fairly good view of Georgia.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] We cannot fail to ask you about your brainchild, the "Mkhedrioni" [former legally sanctioned paramilitary group that was incorporated into the Rescue Corps]. What fate has befallen it?

[Ioseliani] The "Mkhedrioni" as such does not exist. There is the Rescue Corps, whose members have become assimilated into the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD]. In my view, this should lead to some constructive changes in the work of this staid department. Our MVD is the real Soviet Union. It reminds me of a prehistoric machine that is useless. Work there is conducted according to the old traditional principles. Some of our lads were not taken on, having been rejected as unsuitable. You see, some people's fathers had in the past been put on trial. One can imagine that those who are sitting there and taking bribes have more right to work in these structures. In short, you should remember that new wine cannot be kept in old bottles. These have to be changed.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] As we have learned, members of the Rescue Corps are now involved in the exchange of prisoners and the bodies of the dead on the Inguri Bridge. Who is controlling their activities?

[Ioseliani] Yes, our lads who fought in Abkhazia are well in control of the situation. Therefore, they were included in the Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners that is headed by Paata Zakareishvili. I control their activities.

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] Do you have any information on the results, if there are any, of the investigation into the series of murders of "Mkhedrioni" members?

[Ioseliani] As yet, I know nothing. There exist many versions. Although both the security services and MVD and the Procurator's Office are dealing with these matters, I do not see any results. Some of these murders were carried out in such a professional manner that I suspect the involvement of state structures or the international mafia in them. However, the knot will eventually be unraveled....

Situation in Abkhazia's Gali District Remains Tense

LD0405131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi 4 May TASS—The situation in the Gali district of Abkhazia remains tense. Georgian subversive groups continue acts of terrorism against the civilians.

Georgian troops are concentrating on the line of confrontation along the Inguri River, the Abkhazian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

Georgian units acting in the Kodor gorge continue shelling adjacent villages. As a result of artillery shelling of the village of Lata last night, two Abkhazian soldiers were wounded, the Abkhazian Ministry of Information and the press said.

South Ossetia Announces New Leader Appointments

LD0405120694 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tskhinvali, 4 May—Ludvig Chibirov has been elected chairman of the state nikhas [parliament] of so-called South Ossetia. Zaur Gasiyev has been elected first deputy chairman, and A. Khabisov deputy chairman.

Feliks Gasiyev has been elected chairman of the Council of Ministers and Eduard Guzitayev as his first deputy.

Anatoliy Chekhoyev, who is a former first secretary of South Ossetian oblast (?Communist Party) committee, has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the so-called republic of South Ossetia to the Russian Federation.

New Deputy Interior Minister Appointed

LD0405173194 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpts] A routine session of the Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia was held today.

The Cabinet of Ministers released Davit Zeikidze from the post of deputy interior minister of the Republic of Georgia, head of Tbilisi Internal Affairs Directorate.

Demur Mikadze has been confirmed as deputy interior minister of the Republic of Georgia, head of the Tbilisi Internal Affairs Directorate.

Roman Gventsadze has been appointed deputy interior minister.

The Cabinet of Ministers heard a report by the Provisional Committee for Emergencies in west Georgia.

State Minister Givi Lominadze said that as a result of implemented measures, public order had been reinforced, organized crime had dwindled sharply, telephone and transport links had been restored, industrial and agricultural enterprises had started to function, schools had resumed work, and cultural enterprises had started to work. [passage omitted]

Saknavtobi [Georgian Oil] Chairman Revaz Tevzadze, said that instances of stealing oil at oil recovery installations had become frequent and that there were no security guarantees for the personnel. A state commission has been set up in connection with this instance. The prime minister has entrusted the Interior Ministry with the task of improving the current crime situation within a very short time.

Georgians Joining Russian Border Troops on Turkish Border

LD0405145794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 4 May—The Sakartvelo group of Russian border troops has started recruiting citizens of the Republic of Georgia.

Colonel Vladimir Berezin, commander of the Sakartvelo group, said that 350 Georgian citizens are to be recruited during the first stage, which will make up 10 percent of the group's entire personnel.

In the future, a Georgian national unit will guard the Georgian-Turkish border.

Estonia

Laar Confers With French Leaders in Paris

WS0505090094 Tallinn ETA in English 1712 GMT 4 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, currently on a visit to France, was received, on Wednesday [4 May], by French President Francois Mitterand, Estonian Foreign Ministry press service told ETA.

At the meeting, primarily Estonian-Russian relations and issues connected to Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia were discussed. "Be patient, but remain firm of your positions," Mitterand said.

A festive dinner was given in honour of Laar at the French Foreign Ministry, where French state minister Pierre Mehaignerie held a speech, in which he pointed at the success of Estonian economic reforms and confirmed that France supported Estonia's moving towards European Union. "European Union has to open its doors to all those that are a part of European history and culture by the end of the century," Mehaignerie stressed.

Mart Laar was also received by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. Laar is to return to Estonia on Thursday.

Mitterrand Advises Sticking to Course With Russia

LD0505110594 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's press service informed Estonian Radio that Prime Minister Mart Laar, who is currently in France on a working visit, met with President Francois Mitterrand today. Their meeting, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, dealt mostly with Estonian-Russian relations and issues to do with the Russian troop withdrawal. The following recommendation by Francois Mitterrand made its mark: Be patient at the negotiations while sticking firmly to your positions.

The French Foreign Ministry gave a dinner in honor of Mart Laar at which Minister of State Pierre Mehaignerie made a speech. He highlighted the speed and fruitfulness of Estonian economic reforms and stated that France will in every way support Estonia's advances toward the European Union. The minister emphasized that the European Union must be open by the end of the century to all those who form a part of European history and culture.

Round of Talks With Russia Begins in Tallinn

LD0505092894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0804 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 5 May (ITAR-TASS)—A regular round of Russian-Estonian talks started here today. It is devoted to work on a treaty on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia. According to Vaino Reinart, head of the Estonian delegation, Estonia is ready to sign this act and Russia's desire to link this problem with the provision of social guarantees to the Russian military pensioners residing in the republic is the only stumbling block.

On the eve of the round Vasiliy Svirin, head of the Russian delegation, met with Estonian President Lennart Meri. The results of the conversation, he believes, give cause for hope that in a prolonged Russian-Estonian "divorce suit dialogue" the parties can find strength and willingness to engage in a search for a compromise to settle the problem.

The talks are being held behind closed doors and will last for two days. It is planned that a news conference will be given by the heads of delegations on the results of the talks.

Border Guard, Russian Attache Agree on Kurdish Issue

WS0505090294 Tallinn BNS in English 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, May 04, BNS—The head of the Estonian Border Guard Department and the Russian embassy's military attache in Tallinn at a private meeting this week decided that the border- related departments of both countries will themselves try to find out who is responsible for letting illegal Kurdish immigrants across the border and whether Russia should take back the Kurds.

The departments in Estonia and Russia must resolve the issue of the Kurds without creating a strife between themselves or interference by the world community, Tarmo Kouts, the head of the Estonian border department said.

Kouts at the meeting requested from Russian Military Attache Anatoli Tschizhikov that Russia answer to letters by the Estonian department concerning the Kurds' illegal crossing of the border.

Kouts told BNS he hopes to get an answer by Friday [6 May].

"From that answer we will be able to conclude whether the issue can be settled at our departments' level or has to be referred to the Foreign Ministry and the broader public." [passage omitted]

Council of Europe Delegation Visits Parliament

WS0505090494 Tallinn BNS in English 1515 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 04, BNS—A Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly subcommittee delegation had meetings in Tallinn today with a deputy speaker of the Estonian parliament, members of the parliament's social affairs commission, Social Affairs Ministry officials.

The delegation of the subcommittee for social rights under the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe includes representatives from the Netherlands, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Ireland.

Members of the Estonian parliament's social affairs commission, Social Security Department and Social Affairs Ministry officials at their meeting with the delegation spoke about the country's steps in working out a new pensions system to take into account also the wage level of each employee.

The first step in the creation of the new system is a national employers registry, work on which was finished Tuesday [3 May], said Georg Mannik, the head of the Social Security Department.

A transition to the new system is planned for the next year, he said.

Toomas Vilosius, adviser at the Social Affairs Ministry, spoke about the Estonian health insurance system.

Political situation in Estonia and the legislative activity were the main topics discussed at a meeting of the delegation with Estonian parliament's Deputy Speaker Tunne Kelam earlier today. Kelam spoke about Estonia's plans for further integration with Europe. The delegation members asked questions about various aspects of the legislation, the country's economic development and the problem of the retired Russian military, the parliament press office reports.

A separate meeting with the chair of the parliamentary social affairs commission, Siiri Oviir, and visits to social welfare sector establishments in Tallinn were scheduled for the afternoon.

The delegation will visit Narva for meetings with representatives of the northeastern city's Estonian and Russian communities, as well as visits to social security institutions Thursday.

Environment Minister Concludes Fishing Pacts With Russia

WS0505085694 Tallinn ETA in English 1712 GMT 4 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Environment Minister Andres Tarand and head of Russian Fishery Committee Vladimir Korelski signed, on Wednesday [4 May], two fishery agreements between Estonia and Russia.

The agreements regulate fishing in the Finnish Bay and Lake Peipsi, Artur Laast from the Estonian Embassy in Moscow told ETA. He added that an ecological agreement between the two states was being prepared.

Interior Ministry Official Denies Reports of Coup Plan

WS0405141994 Tallinn ETA in English 0753 GMT 4 May 94

[From 4 May PEVALEHT, p.3; "News Bulletin" No. 85/94]

[Text] An Interior Ministry official denied the reports of a coup plan prepared by Russian officers, announced by MP Mart Niklus at a picket at the Russian naval HQ on Monday [2 May]. Niklus had declared that a secret meeting of Russian officers took place in Tartu on April 23 where an armed coup was discussed. He further claimed that the conspirators are armed and have cells in different regions of Estonia.

The PEVALEHT reports that a dismissed Defence League member had sent a letter recently to President Lennart Meri and Commander in Chief General Aleksander Einseln, claiming that retired Russian officers had been preparing a coup at the aforementioned date. The man had added that some servicemen of the Estonia Defence Forces have been involved in the preparation.

An unnamed Interior Ministry official dismissed the report, explaining that April 23 had been the day of the payment of pensions to the retired Russian military and their possible expressions of dissatisfaction can hardly be qualified as a preparation of coup attempt.

Parliament Ratifies Free Trade Agreement With Norway

WS0505085394 Tallinn ETA in English 1712 GMT 4 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Riigikogu [parliament] ratified, on Wednesday [4 May], a free trade agreement between Estonia and Norway, signed on June 15, 1992 by the then Estonian Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski and Swedish Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg in Tallinn. The agreement prescribes prohibition and abolishment of import and export tariffs and quantitative limitations on import and export of production of Estonian or Norwegian origin between the two states.

Central Bank Presents Report on Inflation

WS0505085594 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 03, BNS—The Bank of Estonia in a study delivered to the parliament explores the reasons behind the last months' increasing rise in consumer prices and wages the viability of measures to get the inflation under control.

The survey shows that the current relatively high inflation rates are a natural phenomenon for an economy in transition like ours, said Kaupo Pollisinski, chief spokesman for the central bank.

The rise in the consumer price index in Estonia for the first three months of the year ended at nearly 20 percent, smashing hopes to keep inflation within the far more optimistic estimates made last year end. Topping the disappointing monthly figures was a record 8.9 percent inflation for a single month in March.

The central bank in its study says the record inflation in March was caused 92 percent by a rise in the spending on housing, food, transport and communications.

The price rise in March above all hit people in the lower income group of the society, the central bank says. The consumer price index for the less well-off was 2.5 percent higher than that for the richer population, or 7.9 and 5.4 percent, respectively. For the last four months, inflation has been 6.1 percent higher for families in the low income group than those in the upper segment. The purchase basket of food became 24.5 percent more expensive for the lower income group over the January-March period. The rise in the same sector for the high-income segment was 18.4 percent.

Experts at the Bank of Estonia say there are four main factors that effect inflation most in Estonia: - the ongoing opening of the economy; - higher growth rates in the productivity of work when compared to the industrially developed countries; - arising from this is the continuing difference of the price level in Estonia from that of the foreign countries. Also to be taken into account is that the price level in one of Estonia's main trade partners—Russia—has been extremely unstable; - the fixed exchange rate of the Estonian kroon to the German mark.

Liberal Democratic Official Denounces 'Baltic Fascism'

WS0405140994 Tallinn ETA in English 0753 GMT 4 May 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 85/94]

[Text] Representative of the Russian Liberal Democrats in Estonia Pyotr Rozhok has demanded economic sanctions against "Baltic Fascism" in a newspaper of their party. He calls for the Russian parliament to ban the export of oil products, metal, gas, energy resources and food to Estonia in order to "promote respect for Russia."

Latvia

Government Takes Over New Skrunda Radar Facility

LD0405193094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] On Wednesday the Latvian government took over the new unfinished facility of the Russian radar station in the village of Skrunda 160 km southwest of Riga.

The act of reception was signed by the Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. After the signing ceremony he said at a briefing that the dismantling of the station's new facility may be started immediately. He said the government intends to announce a tender among firms for the dismantling of the facility.

Under the Russian-Latvian agreement signed in Moscow on Saturday within the framework of a package of agreements on the withdrawal of troops from Latvia, the Skrunda station will function for the next four years. Then it is to be fully dismantled within 1.5 years. The Latvian government received guarantees that the U.S. government would grant $2 million and the Swedish government - another $1 million to finance the dismantling.

The radar station was built in 1967 for missile attack early warning. The construction of the new facility of the station started at the end of 1980s.

Cabinet Adopts Law on Port Use, Management, Security

WS0505092794 Tallinn BNS in English 1515 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 04, BNS—The Latvian Cabinet accepted Tuesday [3 May] a law on ports providing for the use, management and security of ports, Communication Minister Andris Gutmanis said at a press conference.

The law is urgent in the present situation of growing competition between Baltic sea ports because it will help to improve the main legislative drawbacks concerning national and municipal port ownership, Gutmanis said.

The planned revenue from port operation in 1994 is 15.5 million lats from which 1.1 million lats will be transferred to local budgets to develop port territory infrastructures.

Under the law, port duties are covered by owners of cargo.

Guard Commander Deems Borders 'Practically Unguarded'

WS0505092894 Tallinn BNS in English 1515 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 04, BNS—The Latvian state border is practically unguarded but it is being relatively controlled, Frontier Guard Brigade Cmdr. Janis Adamsons told reporters on return from a border inspection trip.

The border control is hampered by the acute lack of funding and equipment, as well as inefficiency of certain officials.

The Frontier Brigade received 42 percent of the required minimal funding this year, Adamsons said. Border guards have 47 percent of needed vehicles not speaking about specific technologies, he noted.

Many work organization problems also wait for solution, the commander said. For example, several units are stationed 70 kilometers from frontier, he said.

The average discipline of guards is "rather poor," said Adamsons, "separate unit chiefs imagine that they can take nation-scope decisions."

During the spot check, Adamsons fired 12 officers. He, however, denied it being "personnel cleansing" because the sacked people were unprofessional and lacked discipline.

Adamsons called absurd the present situation when serving border guards face 92 criminal charges or former convicts join the staff.

The economic protection of Latvia stands the main task of border guards in the present situation, said Adamsons. The large quantity of imported food blocks the development of local agriculture, he said.

According to guards' estimates, 20 percent of imported food is contraband.

Adamsons said the brigade command will propose the government to allow border guards to confiscate not only the illegal cargos but also the vehicles that carry them.

The Latvian Border Guard Brigade has a personnel of 4,000. Around 900 border guards work on the border daily checking 8,500 Latvian citizens and 10,000 visitors.

Saeima Speaker Speech Marks Declaration Anniversary

WS0505093094 Tallinn BNS in English 1515 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 04, BNS—Latvian Saeima (parliament) Speaker Anatolijs Gorbunovs addressed reporters Wednesday [4 May] with a speech, dedicated to the adoption of the Independence Declaration on May 4, 1990.

In his address, Gorbunovs thanked the former Supreme Council deputies who started to form the structures of the independent state regardless of the counteractions by Moscow administration.

Commenting on the present political situation, Gorbunovs said he could "support radical changes in the life of our society" if it stabilized the Latvian situation.

The most important future issue is the choice of Latvian citizens on the chief issues of national development and politics, Gorbunovs said.

Answering on journalists' questions, Gorbunovs said he hoped that the Saeima opposition and the ruling coalition would narrow their differences to avoid hampering the work of the parliament.

Gorbunovs said that the opposition ideas to propose extraordinary Saeima elections were logical from the opposition viewpoint because it could not have more influence in the present Saeima as it already had.

"The government of the Latvia's Way and the Farmers' Union is a minority government but the government that the opposition could form would be even more unstable minority government," said Gorbunovs.

Gorbunovs characterized as immature the idea to adopt a public reconciliation declaration because "the issues of the offenses by former KGBs and communist nomenklatura officials have not been sufficiently considered yet." "People who were humiliated now wait for amends," he noted.

Finally, Gorbunovs claimed that the Constitution should be amended to avoid various interpretations by deputies.

Employment Service Reports Jobless Rate of 6.6 Percent

WS0505092694 Tallinn BNS in English 1515 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 04, BNS—As many as 102,222 Latvian residents, or 6.6 percent of the country's economically active population, were looking for job on May 3, according to operative figures from the State Employment Service.

From those, 88,136 have registered themselves as unemployed, 36,016 receive allowances, 31,443 have been seeking jobs for more than six months.

In March, the joblessness rate was 6.5 percent, the service reported.

Lithuania

President Welcomes Israel-PLO Agreement

WS0505091894 Vilnius ELTA in English 1715 GMT 4 May 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 492]

[Text] Vilnius, May 4, ELTA—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas sent congratulations for Israeli president and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of signing the agreement on the Palestinian self-rule.

Brazauskas noted in the telegram that the agreement might become the background for the firm peace in the Middle East.

Security Head Says KGB Files Must Be Returned

WS0405140694 Tallinn BNS in English 0207 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 04, BNS—Russia must return all KGB archives that were taken out of Lithuania after the August coup in 1991, says Jurgis Jurgelis, director of the Lithuanian Security Department.

The Russian ambassador to Lithuania earlier said that Russia sees no legal basis for talks on the return of KGB archives. But in Jurgelis' view, "the law is not necessary to return what was stolen."

In an interview with Lithuania's top daily LIETUVOS RYTAS, Jurgelis said Russia took out part of KGB files when Lithuania restored its independence and became a sovereign state. Russia also refuses to return any of the pre-war archives of Lithuanian security services.

Jurgelis confirmed that around "11 or 12 sacks" of information were stolen from the foreign intelligence department of the KGB when the KGB building in Vilnius was taken over by Lithuanian authorities soon after the 1991 coup. "There is no doubt that the KGB files are in private hands," but the case was closed due to lack of evidence, as well as because witnesses changed their testimonies. Jurgelis confirmed that KGB documents were used for blackmail in several cases.

The official said his department has information about activities of foreign secret services in Lithuania but declined to mention any details.

Deputies Agree VAT Necessary

WS0505092194 Tallinn BNS in English 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 04, BNS—All political forces in the Lithuanian parliament agree that the value-added tax, which came in to effect May 1 replacing the general excise tax, is necessary, members of the parliament's Budget and Finance Committee told reporters Wednesday [4 May].

The overall price increase should reach around 7 to 9 percent, and although prices for some goods will go even higher, more than half of all prices should remain the same, said social democrat Audrius Rudys.

Rimantas Stanikunas, head of the State Prices and Competition Service, said higher bread prices, which should go up by around 20 percent, will be the worst experience for consumers. He said the service and bakeries in Vilnius will try to keep bread prices as low as possible.

Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, all of whom represent different political parties, said prices should jump only once. In their words, some store owners may use the opportunity to inflate prices. But the competition service said it will take strict measures against enterprises which will ungroundedly increase state-controlled prices. The lawmakers said all other prices should be regulated by the market.

Rudys said the price increase is "the price to be paid for proper order in the tax system." He said producers and sellers will avoid non-registered payers of the value-added tax. Besides, the lawmaker said, the new tax will also help collect other taxes which are now concealed.

Rudys noted, however, that not enough effort was made to explain the essence of the new tax to the public, while explanatory work usually takes more than a year in other countries.

The new tax is expected to increase budget receipts by 2 to 3 percent. Lithuania's 18-percent tax is smaller than in a majority of European countries where the value-added tax is 18 to 21 percent, and as much as 25 percent in Denmark.

Prime Minister Discusses Government Policy

WS0505100094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 21 Apr 94 No. 77 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Adolfas Slezevicius, Lithuanian prime minister and LDDP chairman, by GK and DS in Vilnius; date not given: "A. Slezevicius: 'We Will Stand the Test of Power'"]

[Excerpt] As we have already reported, Adolfas Slezevicius, the country's prime minister and chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP], paid a visit to the TIESA editorial office. Today, we are publishing his replies to the questions from TIESA reporters.

[TIESA] The public is currently being incited by the possible interpellation to the government. The document was signed by representatives of an interesting coalition—the Social Democrats, the Nationalists, the Democrats, and even two members of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] faction.

How could you explain the activeness of the Social Democrats, although the programs of the two parties are similar, and particularly the move of K. Jaskelevicius and A. Ivaskevicius [LDDP members]?

[Slezevicius] I have said and can repeat that an interpellation is a constitutional right. Not being numerous and having few representatives in the Seimas [parliament], the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party sometimes wants to attract the attention of others. This may be correct from the viewpoint of the party. However, the frequent change of governments—ours is the sixth one—is damaging to the country's stability and economic reform. I have read the Social Democrats' documents and I know who drafted them—I have not found any original proposals as to how to improve the situation.

The Social Democrats are extremely envious of LDDP efforts to become a member of the Socialist International. This may imply the desire to prove that there can be no close cooperation between the two parties.

This may also mean a hint at a coalition.

The fact that the chairman of the LDDP, which won the elections, is the head of the government means the first attempt to follow the course of Western democratic tradition. According to this model, party members in the Seimas faction should observe discipline because otherwise they could be recalled. Unfortunately, Lithuania is still a "unique" country or, in other words, the "land of wonders." Therefore, even an LDDP Council Presidium member can sign an interpellation to the government headed by the party leader.

There are some LDDP members who do not fit in the faction, while the procedure of recalling is not defined. We will, probably, begin to implement the latter only after the elections to local governments.

At the same time, I would like to admit that the advocates of the interpellation also voice justified criticism. The government's work has shortcomings, and we see them. Not everything is done by fixed deadlines. However, we do have a program and preserve the key trends in our work. Thus, in my opinion, it is beneficial to the country that the activities of the government are corrected and that governments are not changed.

[TIESA] Many people notice that while in power, the LDDP is beginning to follow the policy of Sajudis in the former Supreme Council, when internal strife turned it into a minority. Might it happen that early elections will be inspired by the majority itself rather than the opposition?

[Slezevicius] I am far from such pessimism. We have diverse and smart people in the Seimas. We do not need an amorphous monolith. On the other hand, it is regrettable that sometimes the actions of LDDP representatives cause much joy to the opposition and its press.

A split in the LDDP ranks has been predicted and expected for a long time. I suppose, however, that we will stand the test of power.

[TIESA] Hardly anyone can tell today, approximately what part of the necessary taxes is collected by the government—maybe, one-fourth or 60 percent. This must be the most pressing problem of the day. Failure to resolve it will increase the disproportion between the rich and the poor, and will continue to harm the least protected social groups. What does the government intend to do to collect at least the major part of taxes?

[Slezevicius] I would not like to use the term "to collect taxes." State-conscious citizens should pay taxes themselves. Unfortunately, this problem is really pressing. Illegal trade in smuggled alcohol and tobacco has reached dangerous proportions in all aspects. It demoralizes society and encourages chaos on the market. Local producers cannot compete, while smugglers, certainly, do not pay taxes. However, we will not eradicate this problem by one resolution or another. We require an entire set of coordinated measures.

Throughout the civilized world, 90 percent of tax money comprises four taxes—the value added tax, the taxes on incomes of physical and juridical persons, and excise duties. The creation of a similar system is nearing completion in Lithuania. Subsequent moves that we will have to make are to enhance the responsibility for the nonpayment of taxes and strengthen the operation of inspection offices. We are already demanding great responsibility for contraband. It will be necessary to reinforce the economic police which will have to cooperate with the tax inspection. Therefore, the economic police will receive additional staff in the near future.

Privileges which we have granted to insolvent enterprises by canceling the deadline for paying taxes pursue one goal—to retrieve taxes owed to the state, even though later.

We intend to impose order in the register of enterprises in the immediate future. Currently, we have 110,000 economic entities registered, while taxes are paid by a considerably smaller number of enterprises. Entrusting the register to the Finance Ministry, it would be much easier to control the payment of taxes. We are also considering the possibility of assigning this task to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. However, we doubt whether social organizations will manage to fulfill those functions efficiently.

[TIESA] We will have to apply the bankruptcy law sooner or later. It is this measure that will allow us to replace an inefficient manager of an enterprise with an efficient person, restructure the economy, and make production more effective. The government's hesitation is understandable, because the announcement of the bankruptcies of all insolvent entities would mean mass unemployment. However, we will have to bring ourselves to do this at some time. When will this moment come?

[Slezevicius] We have already announced bankruptcies of 10 enterprises. Certainly, this, as well as the unemployment rate, does not reflect the actual situation. However, the initiative for bankruptcies should come from creditors. The government's task is to facilitate this procedure. We have already accomplished this in principle.

[TIESA] However, it is the government who is this creditor most often. Before 1 March, the debt of economic entities for unpaid taxes to the budget was about 0.5 billion litai. Who should begin the bankruptcy procedure for such enterprises?

[Slezevicius] The current debt to the budget has really exceeded 0.5 billion litai. Moreover, the "Sodra" [state insurance company] budget did not receive another 130 million litai. However, formulating the problem in this way, we should state our goal: Do we want those 200 insolvent enterprises to go broke, although many of them are already getting back on their feet, have found their place in the market, and have chances for repaying the debt in the near future, or do we want to cancel the deadline for their debt and wait until the money returns to the budget, albeit later? The government has chosen the second way. One must bear in mind that half of all unpaid revenues accounts for interest. Thus, we have proposed to enterprises to reach agreements with tax inspections so that the latter cancel the payment of taxes and do not charge any interest during that time. Having done this, we should receive about 170 million litai in budget revenues this year alone, which we would otherwise have to write off. The budget deficit is estimated at exactly this sum. Furthermore, this will help enterprises overcome the shortage of working capital which is the outcome of hyperinflation.

[TIESA] Will not the tying of the litas to the U.S. dollar impair Lithuanian exports?

[Slezevicius] I think that such fears are totally unfounded. On the contrary, a stable currency will promote investments in production, enhance the latter, as well as the possibilities of exports.

[TIESA] Agriculture will not survive without support. Who and how much will you support?

[Slezevicius] We cannot say today what farms and of what size will be effective in Lithuania. Farmers themselves and the market must reply to this question. The government must create conditions for the emergence of genuine owners and a real market. I believe that the president was right in returning the land law to the Seimas, one clause of which envisions the nationalization of land that has no owner. This law is the last one among those on land reform and it must be precise.

The issue of support is even more complicated. It is all very well to subsidize farmers for the governments of those countries where their produce accounts for some 5 percent of the GNP, and a large part of it is sold on the domestic market. Our agriculture produces almost half of the GNP, and about two-thirds of this produce is exported. Thus, we have no resources for subsidies. Even if we had, are prices for exports worth reducing and consumers of other countries worth supporting? We are not the United States which can afford this.

We understand perfectly well that Lithuania was, is, and will be an agricultural country. Farmers will not manage without government support. We will do this in two ways. First of all, we will protect our market from imported produce with customs duties. For example, Estonia is following another course, it has opened all borders to imported farm products.

We will not leave our farmers, who have not yet reached the level of effective production of developed countries, to such a fate.

The other way is to extend preferential credits. The government's task is to find and give them to the most promising producers.

[TIESA] Rumors are again spreading about the reorganization of ministries. Some of them are to be merged, while others—divided. Is this a principle, or do such decisions depend on personalities?

[Slezevicius] Talk is usually more interesting and richer in imagination than in reality.

We have adopted a decision concerning the division of the Ministry of Culture and that of Education and Science. The Environmental Protection Department, which was subordinate to the Seimas, will become a ministry.

The Constitution does not envision deputy prime ministers, while reform issues are complicated. We propose two offices of state ministers. One of them would handle economic reform, and the other—issues of local governments.

I would like to reassure the tax payers that these changes will not increase the number of officials, and we will use only the money allocated from the budget.

Certainly, I wish this reorganization sped up educational reform, improved the work of self-governments, upgraded privatization, and so on.

[TIESA] The trial of the former Lithuanian Bank manager has just ended. Mr. Romualdas Visokavicius has been acquitted. LIETUVOS RYTAS commentator Rimvydas Valatka—and the newspaper vouches for this respectable banker—stated that these proceedings struck a crushing blow to your reputation.

[Slezevicius] Mr. Valatka is particularly attentive to my person, and I am grateful for this. I do not know in what terms he measured this crushing blow, but I did not feel it.

It is regrettable that all cases in our country acquire political clothing, and Mr. Visokavicius called himself even the cannon fodder of political games.

The question of a LIETUVOS RYTAS reporter whether Mr. Visokavicius will apply for his restoration to work is strange. So is the banker's reply: "I do not know." The Seimas dismissed the manager not for the loan to the "Litimpex" bank but for the monetary policy that inflicted great losses on the country's economy.

[TIESA] The political treaty on good-neighborly relations with Poland should be signed shortly. It should begin a new and mutually beneficial stage in cooperation between both countries. What are the relations with Russia and Belarus?

[Slezevicius] Dialogue is under way, but it is not as fruitful as we would like.

It is regretful that Russia is trying to restrict some agreements with new conditions. For example, the most favored nation status is still frozen. Russia wants to link it with the Kaliningrad Oblast issue.

Mr. Yuriy Matochkin, leader of the Oblast Administration, has been authorized by the Russian prime minister to conduct negotiations with Lithuania. A meeting with him should take place in the near future.

Cooperation with Belarus is impaired by the complicated political situation in that country. Quite a number of agreements have been submitted for signing.

[TIESA] How often do you read TIESA? How do you assess it? Why does a newspaper which actually supports the current government have the most modest material conditions?

[Slezevicius] Of course, I read it every day, and I find many interesting publications and readers' comments. I agree that TIESA today is more modest than other newspapers. There are several reasons. One of them is that the LDDP did not reward the paper as rapidly as did our opponents with the "state newspaper" [reference to LIETUVOS AIDAS]. [passage omitted]

IMF Representative Interviewed on Loans

WS0405111594 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 20 Apr 94 No. 76 p 6

[Interview with IMF representative in Lithuania P. Cornelius by ELTA under the "Loans" rubric; place and date not given: "IMF Does Not Waste Resources"]

[Text] **In October of 1993, the IMF Executive Council approved a program for Lithuania which is comprised of two parts—the Lithuanian economic policy memorandum (continuous financial assistance) and the so-called system transformation loan. These resources are allocated to support Lithuania's economic reform which will be conducted for a year and a half—from the middle of 1993 to late 1994. IMF representative in Lithuania P. Cornelius has commented on this assistance rendered by the IMF to an ELTA correspondent.**

[ELTA] What is the difference between an IMF loan extended according to the Lithuanian economic policy memorandum from that of system transformation?

[Cornelius] According to system transformation loans, Lithuania can receive its quota of 50 percent, while according to the memorandum—25 percent (Lithuania's quota in the IMF is about $145 million). This money is paid in separate installments, that is, the total is not paid in bulk.

The IMF extends system transformation loans mostly to those countries which are experiencing a so-called trade shock. Lithuania had this situation when oil and gas prices jumped to the world level. According to this loan, Lithuania's 25-percent quota, which is about $26 million, was paid out in October of 1993. The country received another $36-million quota according to the system transformation loan several weeks ago—on 8 April. These finances must be utilized to settle payment balances.

[ELTA] What about loans under the Lithuanian economic policy memorandum?

[Cornelius] These are extended to Lithuania to enlarge its fund for stabilizing the national currency. Your country will receive this money in five installments. Lithuania received 5 percent of its quota—$7 million—in October of 1993. It will get the remaining 5-percent installments if it meets certain economic requirements.

According to the requirements that Lithuania had to fulfill by late March of this year, another 5-percent installment must be paid out to Lithuania in mid May, while the remaining two—in the middle of November, and in February of 1995. Lithuania can use this money in exceptional cases as domestic loans. Its key goal now is to enhance our trust in the newly established Currencies Council.

[ELTA] IMF loans directly depend on the situation in the Lithuanian economy. How does the IMF Executive Council assess it?

[Cornelius] Lithuania's great progress in stabilizing its macroeconomic situation is noticeable, particularly concerning inflation which has dropped to a monthly rate of 3-4 percent. There are very many signs proving that the economic operation of the state sector is reviving. Tendencies that make the entire economy more dynamic have intensified, and the private sector is developing and expanding rapidly.

Before the establishment of the Currencies Council, Lithuanian banks toughened their monetary policy and noticeably reduced inflation. The fiscal policy is also very strict, and Lithuania's state budget is balanced. This also contributed to the stabilization of the macroeconomic system. One must also mention progress in terms of structure. Lithuania's move toward reform of import and export tariffs—when import duties were abolished or reduced to a minimum—is welcome. This will enhance the level of Lithuania's economic reliability and productivity. The replacement of the general excise tax with the value added tax, and the establishment of the Currencies Council will also have a favorable effect on the state budget.

In our opinion, all these prominent changes ensue from economic progress and the correctly chosen economic policy, even though we must remain cautious. There are some spheres, however, on which Lithuania should focus more. These are privatization, reform in the financial sector, and the personal income tax.

[ELTA] The Lithuanian economic policy memorandum is valid until the end of this year. We have heard that there are plans to draft another program for three years.

[Cornelius] Discussions on the drafting of a new program for Lithuania are already under way. The Lithuanian Government has expressed a desire to draft this program according to the so-called extended IMF loan which would embrace three years of Lithuania's economic policy. Its key goal is to focus on structural issues. Thus far, we have discussed general guidelines with the Lithuanian Government, which could serve as the basis for providing an extended loan. An IMF mission is scheduled to arrive from Washington this Wednesday [20 Apr]. Its representatives along with the Lithuanian Government will specify the economic policy measures that Lithuania intends to adopt with the aim of receiving this loan.

We believe that the IMF can provide an extended loan immediately after the term of the current economic policy memorandum expires. However, the drafting of a new program requires at least two IMF missions so as to discuss all the details in developing Lithuania's economy.

[ELTA] What does the Lithuanian economy lack most of all to make its reform more rapid?

[Cornelius] More attention should be devoted to the so-called structural reform and spheres that must be strengthened more rapidly. This is reform in the financial sector, laws on the Lithuanian Bank and commercial banks and their implementation, and the supervision and auditing of Lithuanian banks. We would like to see more favorable changes in privatization. Undoubtedly, the system of taxes and their collection must be considerably upgraded.

[ELTA] When can the IMF suspend its assistance to Lithuania?

[Cornelius] All changes in the Lithuanian economy are observed according to requirements that are set for each year and its quarter. This is the requirement to possess a certain amount of hard currency in the Lithuanian Bank, to repay foreign debts by fixed deadlines, and to settle the fiscal deficit. Lithuania is not allowed to possess a so-called growing debt to foreign countries.

If these requirements were not satisfied, it is very unlikely that the IMF would continue its loans according to the Lithuanian economic policy memorandum, because the IMF Executive Council reviews and assesses a country's economic situation before every payment. However, there is no such threat to Lithuania.

[ELTA] The Lithuanian Government is sometimes reprimanded for executing the principles of the economic policy memorandum dictated by the IMF too blindly....

[Cornelius] I would like to stress that this is a program of the Lithuanian Government rather than of the IMF economic reform. We only assessed the economic situation in Lithuania and proposed the IMF Executive Council to back such economic reform. The fund has pledged to extend resources that would help to implement the Lithuanian economic policy memorandum, because the Executive Council has noticed great economic progress and successful reform in Lithuania. Therefore, the fear that Lithuania is fulfilling the IMF requirements alone is unfounded.